



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

APRIL 3, 2018

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled work session in the Municipal Conference Room, 425 South Lexington Avenue, Burlington, N.C., on April 3, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Ian Baltutis and Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Hykes
Councilmembers Robert Ward, James Butler and Harold Owen

Councilmembers Absent: *None*

City Manager: Hardin Watkins, *present*

City Attorney: David Huffman, *present*

City Clerk: Renee Ward, *present*

A. Youth Solutions Forum Follow-Up

Hardin Watkins
City Manager

City Manager Hardin Watkins shared the below summary and recommendations:

During the March 5, 2018, Work Session, City Council heard a report from the Youth Solutions Forum process led by Rachel Kelly. The conversation was informative, productive, and beneficial. As the discussion transitioned to next steps and action items moving forward, Mayor Baltutis, Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, and the City Manager attempted to summarize and gain agreement on the next steps to continue moving this effort forward. Staff was asked to review and consider the many discussion points and report to Council during the April City Council Work Session.

Many in the community are eager to see some immediate action taken and the City currently offers a number of helpful services, programs, and facilities through the Recreation & Parks

Department, Police Department, and the Community Development Division of the Planning Department. There are a number of quick-hitter ideas, such as late night basketball, mobile playground camp programs, mentoring, and similar initiatives that can start fairly soon once resources and facility availability are evaluated and allocated. The community involvement portion

and coordination of existing programs and resources will take longer due to the number of organizations and individuals that could potentially be involved.

“Getting the word out” and sharing information about what is available amongst those who can best utilize the services and programs is a key strategy that will also take months to synchronize and harmonize.

City staff is committed to work to solve the problems that have been identified by the community over the past few months. Citizens seem to be interested in the amalgamation of more resources and programs to fill the gaps of the unmet needs. Local government will provide some of these and some will be provided by non-governmental organizations, the faith community, and good-hearted citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes asked City staff to determine resources currently available from all sources and to make recommendations about what types of non-local government organizations and resources can be utilized and included in our community response. City staff will complete this task as budget season demands wane during spring 2018.

It is clear that different strategies are needed for different age groups and different geographic regions. The best solution will have multiple components and parts managed and organized by a multitude of different organizations and individuals.

Suggested Immediate Action Steps:

1. Designate a Youth Solutions Coordinator

I would like to suggest that the City designate or select a person (or persons) to serve in this capacity. I believe that the community would benefit from tapping someone to take the reins and be responsible for coordinating, synthesizing, advocating, cajoling, encouraging, fostering, connecting, developing and promoting solutions. One of my mentors advised me years ago that if you want to make sure that something gets done, you should put someone in charge. I believe this is true.

Accordingly, we need a coordinator that will clearly help us identify what success looks like for City Council, our various partners, and the citizens of Burlington. The community must help us define the goals and outcomes over a 1-5 year timeframe.

- It will be important to have someone that can focus on this initiative and not be constantly juggling other projects and demands. It needs to be on the top of someone’s priority list instead of (or in addition to) their regular work demands and tasks.
- It will be important to have someone that understands community resources and demonstrates and ability to work with people towards common goals.
- It will be important to have a clear leader of the project that is motivated, empowered, and committed to success. We will need to give this person enough latitude to make pertinent, independent decisions to be successful and deliver results.
- It will be important to provide adequate resources (connections, funds, materials, technology, cooperation, and encouragement) to ensure success.

- It will be important to provide clear guidance on the resources available and timetable for seeing measurable results.

2. Compile a Comprehensive List of All City of Burlington, Alamance County, ABSS, State of North Carolina, and Area Non-Governmental Programs that Contribute Positively to Youth Quality of Life

This step can be initiated quickly using existing City staff resources. The findings of this research will help guide and inform the work to follow.

3. Evaluate the Usefulness and Value of a Task Force or Advisory Committee to Serve as a Sounding Board and Source for Advice and Recommendations

This could materialize as: 1) a newly City-appointed group, 2) utilization of an existing organization (non-City) already organized and functioning, or 3) be drawn in an entirely different manner. I envision this as operating similar to one of the City's existing advisory boards (Traffic Commission, Recreation & Parks Commission, etc.) or a typical non-profit committee structure (United Way, etc.). If this action step is pursued, we will need to establish firm guidelines defining the duties and responsibilities of the task force. It is critical to determine how the members will be selected, duration of terms, etc.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes said that the Manager's suggestions were good and that someone needed to be responsible for this project. She said that she felt pressure from the community that something needed to be done right away. She said that with summer coming there were things the City could do. She suggested creating activities available for kids this summer to acknowledge the fact that the City is serious about this program. She suggested late night basketball, access to sports this summer so kids can get involved in something that is worthwhile.

Councilman Ward asked if Ms. Hykes would like a list of quick hitters. He said that this list would be beneficial and suggested that someone coordinate this program and give Council feedback.

Mayor Baltutis said that this was a start in the right direction and better to understand what we have before charging forward. He suggested community asset mapping and a designated person to be responsible for the program.

Mayor Baltutis asked if any of the community partners who were present, would like share any thoughts.

Councilman Butler said that obviously we needed to commit resources and that there were many programs in place that could be expanded upon, where the infrastructure and leadership existed through programming alternatives. He said that to make a difference, the City would need to put dollars with it. He said that budget meetings were coming up and that Council should begin working on the funding and then action.

Mayor Baltutis asked if there were any objections to requesting staff to include those budgetary numbers in the proposed budget.

Councilman Owen voiced concerns with hiring a full-time person as a designated youth solutions coordinator before we determine what was needed and what such person was to accomplish. He suggested challenging existing staff to determine if current staff could modify their duties in order to be more effective.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes said that there could be staff available within the organization. She voiced concerns about not having a point person who could keep the conversation going with the community, police and recreation and parks.

Councilman Ward suggested a quick hitter list that could be reasonably accomplished.

Councilman Owen shared that the Library was bringing back the book mobile. He suggested involving the library system as a way to get into neighborhoods.

Mayor Baltutis said that as Item 3 stated above, a new board and commission could be created.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes said that we asked the community to come together along with those affected by youth violence to look at solutions, but what was not considered was who was doing what, when, where, how. She said her concern was giving this project to people who already had full-time jobs. She suggested having a meeting with the organizations who are engaged in this work and talk to them about how to do this.

Councilman Owen said that the task force could determine the need for a youth solutions coordinator and that person would need to reach out to all the existing groups who know what the problems were. He said that there were things the City could do this summer.

Councilman Butler said that it was important to get in front of the community to receive feedback and those were the ones that the task force needed to derive from. He said that the community needed to be involved and we needed its support and that is where the solutions would come from.

Councilman Owen said that it would take time, but this would build a solid foundation that would grow into something that would be effective for a long period.

Councilman Butler said that there was a good framework of thoughts and ideas and that group could tell us what would be the most impactful quick hitting items.

Council consensus was to pull together a list of quick hitters and bring back to the April 30, 2018, work session and to have staff begin forming a steering committee with community partners and sketch out the role of a coordinator with feedback from the steering committee. Council also agreed to compile a comprehensive list of programs currently offered to youth and to create a community asset map.

Ms. Dorothy Yarborough asked about a mission statement.

Mayor Baltutis said that a mission statement would be a task for community partners who would be serving on the steering committee.

Mr. Jim Albright, Director, NC Behavioral Health Equity Initiative for Alamance County, Alamance Citizens for the Prevention of Youth Violence, said that his team could begin working on quick hitters using the resources they had and would share with Council. He also invited a member of Council or staff to attend the 13th Annual Youth Violence Conference scheduled for May 4, 2018, in Charlotte.

Heidi Norwick, Executive Director, United Way of Alamance, shared that United Way's 211 could assist in the asset mapping.

April Durr, United Way of Alamance, said that it was important to take a collective impact approach, by bringing everyone together around the same goal, forgetting about logos and who gets credit for the success. She said that in order to do that, it had to be intentional about who was at the table, who was not at the table, what's working, what's not working, and that the process needed to be thought out in a way that its very inclusive.

B. Boards and Commissions Reports

- Planning and Zoning Commission – 1 Request
- Traffic Commission – 6 Recommendations
- Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC) - None

Amy Nelson, Director of Planning and Community Development, shared a rezoning request for an existing inert debris landfill with a proposed expansion. The property is located on the south side of West Old Glencoe Road and the property owner was requesting the property be rezoned from I-1A, Planned Industrial Residential, to CI, Conditional Industrial. Staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning.

Jason Geary, City Traffic Engineer shared that the Traffic Commission recommended that Council consider approval of the following requests at the April 4, 2018, City Council meeting:

- Request to install a speed table on Trollinger Street between W. Davis Street and W. Front Street. (*This is not a primary emergency route for police and fire.*)
- Request to establish a No Parking Zone on the west side of Colony Avenue from Grand Oaks Boulevard to the dead end.
- Request for the conversion of a loading zone to (2) 2-hour parking spaces on the south side of S. Worth Street from a point 58' northeast from the intersection of S. Worth Street and E. Davis Street to a point 106' northeast from the same.

- Request for a restricted left turn on Broadview Drive turning onto Sellars Mill Road.
- Request to install a mid-block crosswalk on Front Street approximately 100' west of the intersection of Front Street and Saddleclub Road.
- Request to convert (9) employee only spaces and (6) 2-Hour parking spaces in Municipal Lot #5 to All Day spaces.

Police Chief Smythe shared that a potential four-way stop at Cameron and Avon did not make the above list. He said that the traffic study performed at this intersection showed it did not meet the traffic flow count. He said that Council could take action at the request of the police department.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes said that it would certainly slow the traffic down in that neighborhood and asked if Council would like to place it on the agenda.

Councilman Butler said that he would like to go out and view the intersection.

Council consensus was to discuss a four-way stop at Cameron and Avon at the April 30, 2018, Work Session.

Council Comments:

Mayor Baltutis shared that he and Councilman Owen attended the National League of Cities recently and meet with delegates. He thanked staff for helping prepare city initiatives and issue areas.

Councilman Owen said that each legislator spoke about the pending budget and that HUD financing had increased, transportation stayed solid and e-fairness as it relates to sales tax.

Mayor Baltutis shared the Racial Equality program that he would be attending on April 23rd and 24th. He encouraged Council to look at what the Racial Equality Institute was doing in the community.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 6:35p.m.

Renee M. Ward

Renee M. Ward
City Clerk

April 3, 2018
Work Session