



Minutes of the Burlington City Council Meeting Virtual Meeting 7:00pm – Tuesday, July 7, 2020

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled meeting remotely beginning at 7:00pm on July 7, 2020. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this meeting was convened remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform.

Mayor Ian Baltutis presided.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Ian Baltutis
Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Hykes
Council Member Robert Ward
Council Member James Butler
Council Member Harold Owen

Staff Present:

City Manager Hardin Watkins
City Attorney David Huffman
Interim City Clerk Beverly Smith

Council Members Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ian Baltutis

INVOCATION: Council Member Harold Owen

The invocation was offered by Council Member Harold Owen.

REMEMBRANCE: Howie Norwick - Member of Public Transit Advisory Commission

Director of Planning and Transportation Mike Nunn recognized Howie Norwick who served on the City's Public Transit Advisory Committee beginning July 2015. He expressed sincere sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Howie. He explained Howie is gratefully remembered for his service and dedication to the community.

REPORT TO COUNCIL: Linda Jones - Alamance Chamber Census Campaign Coordinator

Community Engagement Manager Morgan Lasater introduced Linda Jones and provided a brief overview of the partnership with Ms. Jones and the City's appreciation for the work she's doing for the City of Burlington and Alamance County.

Linda Jones updated the City Council on the 2020 Census self-response rate which is currently at 61.9 % nationally, 58.1% in the state of North Carolina, 61.4% in Alamance County and 61.2% in the City of Burlington which puts the City at number 122 out of 551 cities that have reported. She explained Burlington is doing well in the campaign with hopes of improving in reporting. She expressed appreciation for Burlington's Community Engagement Department.

CODE OF ETHICS DISCLOSING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Interim City Clerk, Beverly Smith
There were no conflicts reported.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Council Member Ward, seconded by Council Member Owen, it was resolved unanimously to adopt the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. To approve an interlocal agreement between the City of Burlington and Guilford County to provide Interim Emergency Management Services for an approximate 90-day period and authorize the City Manager and Director of Finance and Risk Management to execute the agreement upon satisfactory completion of legal review and City Attorney approval.

Upon a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, it was resolved unanimously to approve the foregoing consent agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ITEM 1: 2020-2021 Advisory Boards and Commissions

Mayor Baltutis announced City Council will consider appointments to the 2020-2021 Advisory Boards and Commissions. (Continued from the June 16, 2020, City Council Meeting)

The following appointments were approved by City Council.

ABC Board

Reappointment

Frank Longest (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Owen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointment.

Airport Authority

Reappointment

Marc Crissman (*Term expires December 31, 2024*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Butler, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointment.

Burlington Housing Authority

Reappointments

Alise Napp (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Charles Carter (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

New Appointments

Michael Graves (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Dorothy Yarborough (*Term expires June 30, 2021*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Ward, seconded by Council Member Butler, the motion was passed three to two. Council members voting in favor were Ward, Butler, and Owen. Council Members voting in opposition were Mayor Baltutis and Mayor Pro Tem Hykes.

Board of Adjustment

Reappointment

H.E. Wilson (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Alternate Reappointment

Eric Grant (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, seconded by Council Member Owen, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointments.

Historic Preservation Commission

New Appointment

Drew Neill (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, seconded by Council Member Butler, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointment.

Minimum Housing Commission

New Appointments

Lucero Vazquez (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Kenneth Graves - ALTERNATE (*Term expires June 30, 2022*)

Jacob Dunson - ALTERNATE (*Term expires June 30, 2022*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Ward, seconded by Council Member Owen, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointments.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Reappointment

James Kirkpatrick (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Council Member Owen, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointment.

Recreation and Parks Commission

Reappointments

Chris Honeycutt (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Thomas Phelps (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

New Appointments

Celo Faucette (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Trip Durham (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Ward, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointments.

Traffic Commission

New Appointments

Ann Davis (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Ashley Paist (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

James Perry (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, seconded by Council Member Butler, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointments.

Tree & Appearance Commission

Reappointments

Walt Brown (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Roger Moore (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

New Appointments

Pat Pelt (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Chuck Beard (*Term expires June 30, 2022*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointments.

Public Transportation Advisory Commission

Reappointments

Moses Corbett (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

Roger Meisenbach (*Term expires June 30, 2023*)

New Appointments (*Term expires June 30, 2021*)

Shaher Sayed (*Term expires June 30, 2021*)

Butch Wilson – ALTERNATE (*Term expires June 30, 2021*)

Tammy Williamson – (*Term expires June 30, 2021*)

Upon a motion by Council Member Owen, seconded by Council Member Butler, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointments.

Library Committee

Reappointments

Logan Savits (*Term expires September 30, 2023*)

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, seconded by Council Member Ward, it was resolved unanimously to approve the appointment.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ITEM 2: Fairchild Community Center Daycare Lease:

Mayor Baltutis announced a public hearing had been set to consider approving a lease agreement between the City of Burlington and Lifespan Incorporated for Fairchild Community Center Daycare.

Assistant City Manager Rachel Kelly provided a brief overview and presented the proposal identifying Lifespan Incorporated as the best qualified vendor to operate a childcare program in the wing of Fairchild Community Center. She introduced Lynn Crabtree, Senior Director of Education Services for Lifespan to provide an overview of their program.

Lynn Crabtree provided a brief overview of the services they have provided since the mid 1970's to the Alamance community. She reported on the program plans of operation.

Ms. Kelly reported staff recommends approving the Fairchild Daycare Agreement and Lease between the City of Burlington and Lifespan Incorporated.

The public hearing was held and there were no public comments.

Upon a motion by Council Member Ward, seconded by Council Member Owen, it was resolved unanimously to close the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Council Member Owen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, it was resolved unanimously to approve the lease agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 3: Set Date of Public Hearing – Installment Financing

Mayor Baltutis announced City Council will consider setting a date of public hearing for July 21, 2020 to seek public input on proposed installment financing pursuant to NCGS§ 160A-20(g).

Finance and Risk Management Director Peggy Reece provided a brief overview of a proposed installment financing agreement which requires public input. She reported staff recommends setting a date of public hearing for July 21, 2020, to seek public input on the proposed installment financing pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-20(g).

Upon a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, it was resolved unanimously to set a date of public hearing for July 21, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Donna Vanhook, 317 Caswell Street, Burlington, spoke on a letter she received from City Manager Hardin Watkins and her plans to file a written complaint in reference to that letter.

Michael Graves, 210 Union Avenue, Burlington expressed appreciation for his Burlington Housing Authority appointment. He spoke on police reform and development of a police review board.

Fran Edwards, 412 Neese Drive, Burlington spoke on systemic racism.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

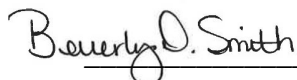
Council Member Butler commented on the insufficient notification he received from Mayor Baltutis of the Mayor's plans to hold a press conference endorsing a petition demanding the removal the statue at court square in Graham. He stated he had urged the Mayor to reconsider due to the public perception and that

his comments would be divisive with our other elected bodies, namely the City of Graham and Alamance County. He stated, for the record, the Mayor's actions were not endorsed by City Council and in direct conflict with a Council/Manager form of government, whereas the Mayor does not have the authority to represent Council without a Resolution giving such authority. He stated there is no Resolution, nor has there been Council discussion about that matter. He stated the decision was not the City of Burlington's to make as the statue is located in the City of Graham and the City had no decisive authority to get involved in that matter since the statue is protected under state and federal law.

Council Member Butler stated he was not aware of any collaborative conversations by Elon University or Cone Health, with other Council Members, the Mayor having indicated that those two entities having contacted him. He questioned the last-minute preparations and stated in his opinion it showed a lack of leadership, demonstrates no desire to collaborate, and was a personal political position of the Mayor's. He commented on multiple related emails that had been forwarded to Council Members with comments that were questioning why the City was involved, and Mr. Butler indicated, for the record, that the City was not involved. He clarified that under Charter, the City operates under a Council-Manager form of government, purposefully and constructively non-partisan, and that the Mayor only is a figure head. Our Charter says he or she has no authority to represent Council unless duly empowered to do so through a Resolution. He apologized to Alamance County Commissioners and Graham elected officials asking that, in the future, any actions such as this, the Council should be briefed well in advance to allow Council discussion. Otherwise the Mayor should state that his involvement is personal and that he does not represent the City and the City Council to avoid the perception that the Mayor's involvement and opinion are that of the City of Burlington.

ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Council Member Ward, seconded by Council Member Butler, it was resolved unanimously to adjourn at 8:04pm.



Beverly D. Smith, NCCMC
Interim City Clerk

July 7, 2020
City Council Meeting