



Minutes of the Burlington City Council Work Session

Virtual Meeting
5:00pm - Monday, March 1, 2021

www.BurlingtonNC.gov/councilpackets

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, this meeting was convened remotely using the Zoom Webinar platform.

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

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

Jessica Arias, Scott Bibler, Peter Bishop, Vanessa Diggs, Jonathan Dudley, Rachel Kelly, Nolan Kirkman, Todd Lambert, Morgan Lasater, Matt Lawrence, Tony Laws, Joey Lea, Jay Mebane, Samantha Miller, Anne Nicholson, Mike Nunn, Conrad Olmedo, Bob Patterson, Peggy Reece, Louisa Sholar, Jeff Smythe, Brian Tennant, John Vernon, and Russell Williams.

Presenters Present: Michael Blair

Media Present: Tomas Murawski, Alamance News

A) CDBG Funding Discussion

Community Development Director Michael Blair provided an update on the Community Development CDBG funds for infrastructure and provided an overview of the process for allocation of these funds. He reported during the February 2, 2021, Work Session, City staff reviewed proposals from the Request for Proposals for HOME/CDBG Affordable Housing Development Projects where the two proposals involved the need for CDBG Infrastructure Funding did not move forward. He explained City staff, as directed by Council, compiled a list of all potential CDBG infrastructure funding projects and reported on the three recommended high impact projects including the following:

- North Park Phase 1C – Park Feature
- Apple Ridge Subdivision – Street with Sidewalk
- Ruby Lane to Haw River Phase 1 - Greenway

Council Member Butler inquired about the sidewalk connector project between Apple, Chandler, and Melrose.

Assistant City Manager, Nolan Kirkman responded and explained the proposed connection of that project.

Council Member Butler stated the sidewalk project seemed to be a higher impact project for safety measures.

Mayor Baltutis inquired if the Ruby Lane connector trail had been submitted previously for another grant.

Assistant City Manager, Rachel Kelly addressed the Mayor's comments and explained Recreation and Parks applied to the Federal Land Water Conservation Grant for the Ruby Lane project and was unsuccessful in receiving those funds, however, its being vetted through the federal lobbyist team to seek other opportunities that are a better fit.

Mayor Baltutis responded to Council Member Butler's comment on the potential impact of switching the Ruby Lane project for the sidewalk connector on Melrose and stated he would be in favor of that.

Council Member Owen concurred.

Following a brief discussion, Council consensus was to place an addition to the March 2, 2021, City Council Meeting to approve the following projects for the CDBG allocations:

- North Park Phase 1C (\$154,358)
- Apple Ridge Subdivision Street/Sidewalk (\$150,000)
- Apple Street to Sharpe Road Sidewalk (\$100,000)

B) Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Policy for CDBG & HOME Funds

Community Development Director Michael Blair presented a request to consider a proposed Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Policy to allow CDBG and HOME Rehabilitation grant funding to be utilized. He reported at the October 5, 2020 City Council Work Session a HOME Funds presentation included discussing the City Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. He explained what the policy addresses which is based on the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) forgivable loan format that PTRC has approved annually by the NCHFA. City staff recommends moving to a deferred and forgivable loan policy.

Following a brief discussion, Council consensus was to place an addition to the consent agenda for consideration at the March 2, 2021, City Council Meeting to adopt the proposed Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Policy.

C) Aquatics Division Update

Aquatics Director Samantha Miller provided a brief update on the Burlington Recreation and Parks Aquatics Division which included introduction of the Division's new leadership, overview of operations during Covid-19, recap of North Park Pool opening, preview of 2021 operations and upcoming Maynard Aquatics Center facility assessment. She commended the staff at the Aquatics Center and made noteworthy comments about City staff at Recreation and Parks.

Ms. Miller reported the Maynard Aquatics Center (MAC) has implemented a reservation system comprising of deep-water exercise, lap swim, water walking, family swim times, and shallow water exercise classes. She stated patrons have been pleased with the level of care and attention to their safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared future plans to include a Water Safety Instructor Class, Facility Needs Assessment and the addition of an AquaClimb at the deep end to replace aging diving boards. She provided an update on lifeguard recruitment and retention. She presented improvements to the North Park Pool, MAC Facility Needs Assessment plans, and exciting future plans for both the MAC and North Park pools.

City Manager Hardin Watkins commended Aquatics Director Samantha Miller and Assistant Aquatics Director Anne Nicholson for the work through the summer during a pandemic to keep these facilities operating.

D) Backyard Chicken Ordinance – Budget Impact Discussion

Assistant City Manager, Rachel Kelly reported, per City Council direction at the March 1, 2021, Work Session, City staff was asked to present the budgetary impacts of the proposed Ordinance amendments pertaining to City Code of Ordinances Section 6-13 and Unified Development Ordinance referencing backyard chickens/fowl within the City limits. She stated Planning staff and Animal Services staff were in attendance to respond to any questions from City Council.

Ms. Kelly provided a brief overview of potential budgetary impacts. She reported the Planning Department implementation and enforcement of the Ordinance could be absorbed into their current operations and budget. She stated with the uncertainty of the number of permits requested it is assumed that this proposed change would be manageable. She reported Burlington Animal Services (BAS) would not be able to feasibly enforce a new Ordinance at current staffing levels. She explained in August 2020, as a result of an internal workload analysis of the police department, the BAS officers now respond to all animal-related service calls during business hours and are on-call for any emergency calls that occur after hours. She stated this change presented an increase of 12% over the previous year in responses to the Animal Services officers. She stated the expectation is that this trend will continue and at that level of call volume and staffing, Animal Services simply cannot meet the service demand and could result in not meeting expectations of residents related to timeliness of calls or individual service. She reported Animal Services has submitted a position request for consideration in the 2021-2022 budget and explained the following budgetary impact for FY 21-22 and FY 22-23.

Animal Services Officer Budgetary Impact		
	Year 1	Year 2
Salary	\$32,495	\$33,307
Health Insurance	\$9,000	\$9,000
Fica/Retirement/401K	\$7,819	\$8,016
Training/ Phone/ Certs. C.E.	\$2,750	\$2,250
Year 1 Net Vehicle / Technology Upfit	\$14,711	
Total ASO Budget Impact	\$66,275	\$52,573

Animal Services Director Jessica Arias underscored the staffing needs for Animal Services and stated Animal Services is already seeing an uptake in calls with increased pressure on the two officers.

Mayor Baltutis inquired on the status of a public hearing for the proposed Ordinance amendment.

Ms. Kelly responded to her knowledge a public hearing had not been scheduled at this time and would defer to Assistant City Manager Nolan Kirkman to confirm.

Council Member Butler inquired on the type of vehicle needed and the costs associated with the vehicle.

Ms. Arias responded the vehicle costs was shared with Alamance County since they service the entire area and was a vehicle used for transporting animals.

Mr. Kirkman responded a public hearing date had not been scheduled.

Mayor Baltutis requested Council consensus on setting a date of public hearing for amendments to the Ordinance.

Council Member Butler suggested waiting until April 20, 2021 to place consideration closer to budget preparations.

Following discussion, Council Consensus was to schedule a public hearing for April 20, 2021, to receive comments and proposed changes to related Ordinances for consideration.

E) Burlington Arboretum at Willowbrook Park

Partnership MOU and Resolution Establishing Technical Advisory Board

Assistant City Manager Rachel Kelly provided an overview of an MOU between the New Leaf Society and the City of Burlington outlining a partnership intent regarding the Burlington Arboretum. She explained the City approved an MOU with New Leaf Society for the construction of the arboretum and as the construction winds down, there has been conversations looking forward in the continued stewardship of this unique facility being built in the Burlington Recreation and Parks system. She explained key terms of the agreement and areas outlined in this collaborative partnership.

Ms. Kelly presented on a proposed Resolution to establish a Burlington Arboretum at Willowbrook Park Technical Advisory Board and explained the adoption of this Resolution and creation of a Technical Advisory Board would support the continued maintenance, stewardship, and future development of the arboretum. She stated the board would be comprised with individuals with specialized educational training in horticulture and similar fields, experienced in arboretums, conservatories, or botanical gardens, and designated representatives from New Leaf Society, the City of Burlington, and County Cooperative Extensions to be advisors and technical experts. Ms. Kelly stated it recommended that the slate of candidates would be jointly submitted from the City Manager's office and the President of the New Leaf Society to the City Council for consideration.

Rett Davis expressed gratification in the progress at the arboretum and noted compliments received while on the property from current residents. He stated they are pleased with the quality of workmanship, the cooperation with City engineers and officials, and the noticeable use of this area. He

expressed appreciation to City Attorney David Huffman and Assistant City Manager Rachel Kelly for the coordination of these efforts.

Mayor Baltutis stated the request for consideration is recommended by City staff to be placed on the March 16, 2021, City Council Meeting agenda.

Council consensus was to place both items on the March 16, 2021, City Council Meeting agenda for consideration.

F) Burlington Fire Department - FEMA SAFER Grant Proposal

Fire Chief Jay Mebane presented a proposal and request for the Burlington Fire Department (BFD) to apply for FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire & Safety Response (SAFER) Grant. He reported the cost share typically associated with the SAFER grant has been waived for this fiscal year due to COVID-19. He stated the only requirement for applying for the SAFER grant is that an organization must be brought into compliance with NFPA 1710. He explained the need for compliance with NFPA 1710 and stated a need was identified for increased staffing through the 2019-2024 BFD Strategic Plan and internal conversations.

Chief Mebane reported the additional firefighters would staff the BFD Heavy Rescue Unit – Squad 1, which is currently staffed with one person, and requires additional staffing for safety and to comply with national standards. He stated the request is for three (3) additional Firefighters to allow BFD to meet the minimum requirement of NFPA 1710. He provided an overview of the following costs associated with the increased staffing:

Cost

	Full Time	FICA	Insur	Retire	401k	Total
New Hire	\$38,999.20	\$2,983.44	\$9,000.00	\$4,453.71	\$1,949.96	\$57,386.31
6mths	\$39,974.18	\$3,058.02	\$9,000.00	\$4,565.05	\$1,998.71	\$58,595.97
YR - 2	\$40,773.66	\$3,119.19	\$9,000.00	\$4,656.35	\$2,038.68	\$59,587.88
YR - 3	\$41,589.14	\$3,181.57	\$9,000.00	\$4,749.48	\$2,079.46	\$60,599.64
YR - 4	\$42,420.92	\$3,245.20	\$9,000.00	\$4,844.47	\$2,121.05	\$61,631.63
YR - 5	\$43,269.34	\$3,310.10	\$9,000.00	\$4,941.36	\$2,163.47	\$62,684.27

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Award
\$175,787.90	\$175,787.90	\$175,787.90	\$527,363.69

The grant will not cover overtime or additional merits/increases after the first-year "usual" cost.

City of Burlington Cost - 3 Firefighters			
	Salary	Benfits	Total Compensation
Year 4	\$127,262.76	\$57,632.15	\$184,894.90
Year 5	\$129,808.01	\$58,244.79	\$188,052.80

City Manager Hardin Watkins commented following the conversations with Council Members over the few days, he and Chief Mebane landed on asking for support to turn in an application for three (3) additional firefighters from the original request of as many as seven (7) additional firefighters. He explained out of abundance of caution and concern for year four, which would be FY 24-25, when the City would have to take on the burden of that number of firefighters, which would be easier for the additional three and meets the safety requirement with NFPA 1710. He explained the City would begin in FY 21-22 and the following two years with reserving funds in the budget to prepare for the FY 24-25 costs associated with the additional staffing similar to how staffing was handled with the opening of Fire Station 6.

Council Member Owen asked Chief Mebane about the number of firefighters required for a home larger than a home no more than 2,000 square foot, maximum 2 story, with a basement and no exposures.

Chief Mebane responded those requirements are not listed in NFPA 17 and it is up to the department to strategize and determine when on scene to figure out the resources that are needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes commented on a previous conversation with Chief Mebane regarding the training needs and inquired about what happens if the decision is to approve three instead of seven additional firefighters.

Chief Mebane responded, if three are approved, the additional training position goes away.

Mayor Baltutis asked Chief Mebane to elaborate on the other areas the City is foregoing if only three positions were approved.

Chief Mebane responded if able to apply for seven positions, it would provide for two additional firefighters to the rescue unit for each day and an additional staff person in training.

Council Member Owen inquired about the challenges the department is facing with one person in training versus having two staff members in training. He asked how many hours of training were required per year to meet the guidelines.

Chief Mebane responded the current training staff member is at capacity with requirements of that position and explained efforts to offset that with the recruitment process and indicated there are still challenges with the hours of training required for various levels of fire department positions. He addressed the training hours requirements. He explained the current training position schedules and is involved in the organization of courses for the various position needs and records those training hours.

Council Member Butler clarified the current training person organizes, records and schedules training to pilot that program, but that individual is not burdened with conducting all the training courses involved.

Chief Mebane responded and concurred.

Mayor Baltutis asked Chief Mebane to elaborate on the ISO rating and referenced the grant application moving the department closer to a Class 1 rating.

Chief Mebane explained the Department of Insurance reviews the efficiency of service and reviews three categories including communications branch, water resources, and the overall fire department where training is also evaluated. He explained a grade is assigned and moving to a Grade 1 typically includes an insurance cost savings.

Mayor Pro Tem noted points made that stood out and expressed the importance of training and meeting those needs. She stated she would like to consider four positions.

Council Member Butler reflected on the Fire Station #6 personnel hiring process which required the administration to prepare for the positions in the budget for a period of several years to fund. He addressed personnel costs that are ongoing when new positions are added and prefers to have more budget conversations for increased staffing unless there is an urgent need.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes responded the no match due to Covid is appealing and provides an opportunity to apply without additional funding at this time.

Mayor Baltutis inquired about how the City is currently positioned to move to a Class 1 rating.

Chief Mebane responded the water supply received grade with no issues and the area that requires the most focus is on the growth of the fire department through deployment analysis which can be achieved by staffing.

Mayor Baltutis asked Economic Development Director Peter Bishop to respond to the economic development standpoint on having a Class 1 rating.

Mr. Bishop responded it is rare for that class rating to be a direct criterion for a site location, however, having adequate fire protection infrastructure in the ground and adequate services via apparatus or staff, are considered for industries or sites with dangerous manufacturing practices increases the importance of a high-quality fire department.

Council Member Owen concurred with Council Member Butler and explained the importance of budgeting for year four when the City takes on responsibility of the funding for additional staffing. He preferred preparation over the next few years to plan for the budgetary needs.

Council Member Ward inquired how staffing is reviewed in the ISO rating process and if training and general staffing was looked at individually.

Chief Mebane responded the overall fire department counts for 50% of the overall score.

Council Member Ward asked if Council could consider the four positions to enhance the overall performance and increase the possibility of moving towards a Class 1 rating.

Following discussion, Council consensus was to place an addition on the March 2, 2021, City Council Meeting to provide a letter of support for the application to the SAFER grant for a total of four firefighter positions if the Burlington Fire Department is awarded the grant.

G) Youth Solutions Report

Community Engagement Manager Morgan Lasater briefed Council on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and associated CDBG agreement between Impact Alamance (anchor organization for Alamance Achieves) and the City of Burlington for the performance and scope of work of Youth Solutions. She introduced Alamance Achieves Executive Director, Tyronna Hooker and City of Burlington Youth Solutions Coordinator, Vanessa Diggs.

Ms. Lasater provided an overview of the goals of the Youth Solutions program and explained this request is in alignment with the mission and the objective of Alamance Achieves and the Youth Solutions program will be bolstered by the resources. She shared the following notable highlights:

- MOU is for the performance of the scope of work of Youth Solutions
- Requires Alamance Achieves to continue to identify and capture data for indicators of youth violence.
- Prioritize objectives for an annual plan of work.
- Provide a Youth Solutions liaison
- Build and maintain community relationships surrounding the work of Youth Solutions.
- Build collaborative relationships and meet regularly with staff managing youth-focused City programs.
- Present a biannual overview of Youth Solutions achievements to City Council.
- Identify additional funding sources and partner agencies to create sustainable community-wide reductions in youth violence.
- Complete at least eighty percent of the work in CDBG-eligible communities

Alamance Achieves Executive Director Tyronna Hooker shared remarks and explained the importance of the Youth Solutions position, agreement, and its alignment with helping youth be successful and viable citizens on our community. She stated she was excited to work with Vanessa Diggs and appreciative of the support from the City of Burlington.

Ms. Lasater stated City staff recommends approval and placement on the March 2, 2021, City Council Meeting for consideration.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes inquired about reporting on the preliminary evaluations of youth programming.

Youth Solutions Coordinator Vanessa Diggs responded and addressed the inquiry.

Assistant City Manager Rachel Kelly explained the research and recommendations by Vanessa Diggs with focus on afterschool programs and ways to lower barriers for participation in the afterschool programs, focus on in community program work and ways to bring recreation and youth programming into the community to be more helpful in reaching the community like the Park and Play program.

Following discussion, Council consensus was to place an addition to the consent agenda for consideration at the March 2, 2021, City Council Meeting.

H) Boards and Commissions Reports

- Planning and Zoning Commission – 3 Items

Director of Planning and Transportation Mike Nunn provided an overview of the following requests advertised and proposed for public hearing at the March 16, 2021, City Council Meeting:

- The request is to rezone from MI Medium Industrial District to LDR Low Density Residential District. The properties are located on the south side of Hatchery Road approximately 2,200 feet east of Alamance Road, referenced as Alamance County tax identification numbers 121184 and being a portion of 121183.

Mr. Nunn reported the Comprehensive Plan calls for General Industrial use and the proposed zoning is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan due to the projected use for industrial development. He stated the proposed LDR Low Density Residential District rezoning would not be compatible with the surrounding area's existing industrial and commercial zoning and uses and the current Land Use Plan supports future industrial development and should be maintained. He stated City staff recommends denial of the rezoning request based on inconsistency with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted 4-3 to recommend approval of the request.

- The request is to rezone from MDR Medium Density Residential to PD Planned Development District for the use of a 205-unit multifamily development. The property is located at 1408 St. Marks Church Road referenced as Alamance County tax identification numbers 106976.

Mr. Nunn reported the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Plan calls for the area to be Regional Commercial and the proposed zoning is consistent with the Land Use plan in that commercial zoning allows multifamily uses. He stated the Planned Development zoning district requires development to be of a higher quality than what would have resulted from the general standards of the ordinance and the proposed PD Planned Development District rezoning would be compatible with the surrounding area's existing residential and multifamily uses. He explained the applicant has provided items that are above the minimum standards of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and meet the intent of the Planned Development zoning district. He stated City staff recommends approval of the rezoning request. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval the request.

- The request to rezone from MDR Medium Residential District to OI Office Institutional District. The property is located at the south east corner of Grand Oaks Blvd. and Huffman Mill Road, referenced as Alamance County tax identification number 112469.

Mr. Nunn reported the Comprehensive Plan calls for the area to be Rural Residential/Agricultural and this proposed use is of a higher intensity than called for in a Rural Residential/Agricultural area, but the adjacent office uses make this compatible with the request and City staff recommends approval. While inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, this is a good use of the property.

He stated one comment was received in support at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request.

- Traffic Commission – None
- Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC) - None

I) The Valley Golf Course Performance Report

Golf Manager Jonathan Dudley provided a report on The Valley Golf Course performance for the past seven months and focus on the coming months. He provided a financial scope and reported the Valley has had a 95% increase in revenue with those numbers remaining strong. He explained ideas to meet the demand and connecting with customers including a new point of sale system, website rebrand www.golfatthevalley.com, online tee time booking engine, and fresh content on social media outlets.

Mr. Dudley reported on platforms in place for player development to help with long term growth in the game. He summarized customer service and interaction at the golf course is the focus to keep up with the demands. He reported opportunities are being considered such as post round open-air structure for event hosting and youth programs, and equipment updates to meet the greens maintenance, irrigation, and drainage challenges, and focus on maintaining service to our customers year-round.

Director of Recreation and Parks Tony Laws reported on disc golf courses available to customers at City owned parks and Alamance County. He reported the City has a disc golf course at Springwood Park and has been asked to consider a course at The Valley Golf Course. He shared feedback from research conducted at other disc golf courses in Alamance County and explained installation on a regular course could be done, but only in the right circumstances. He reported there are currently four public courses that are free to play and two private courses where membership is required in Alamance County. He explained the fee structure and increased play at The Valley Golf Course led to not recommending installation of a permanent disc golf course on the regular golf holes at The Valley Golf Course. He reported in lieu of this recommendation, the City can consider allowing the following options:

- Several annual disc golf tournament rentals on the regular golf holes using portable baskets.
- Installation of a free to play, permanent disc golf course in the wooded area between the two nines of the regular golf course within proximity of the clubhouse, provided the disc golf community helps in establishing that course.

Mayor Baltutis expressed appreciation for the good analysis and suggestions of the blended use of the course without sacrificing the success of the course while it is doing well financially.

Mr. Laws responded disc golf is popular in Alamance County and provides multiple places for the players to play throughout the community which are all free except for the privately owned course offerings.

Council Member Owen stated it is a solid recommendation and the placement of the location near the clubhouse to offer this option at The Valley Golf Course would allow for a different environment.

Mayor Pro Tem expressed an understanding of the mixed use at The Valley on the regular course and will digest the report in her thought process.

Council Member Butler left the meeting at 7:00pm.

J) City Manager Report

- Costs of primary and general elections – requested at the February 2, 2021 City Council Meeting

City Manager Hardin Watkins reported on a request from City Council to provide the costs of primary and general elections. He shared the data was provided to Council and recapped for the purpose of this meeting. He stated the City's cost for the 2019 General Elections was around \$32,000 and the primary was around \$34,000 for fees paid to Alamance County Board of Elections for direct costs related to Burlington's municipal elections. He explained around \$1,200 for the general and around \$1,000 for the primary was paid to Guilford County Boards of Elections.

Manager Watkins reported on a subsequent request regarding the North Carolina State Board of Elections recommendation to move all municipal elections to 2022 since sixty-two cities rely on census data that will not be ready for them to determine any changes, they may need to make districts and wards. He stated the City of Burlington is not in that group and Metro Mayor's has recommended the City speak with Representative Dennis Riddell since he is on that committee considering this request. He explained a letter has been requested by the City that states our position, a draft has been prepared by Assistant City Manager, Rachel Kelly for consideration, and statements from Council Member Butler have been provided in favor of postponing elections to 2022 as proposed by the Board of Elections, to assist in determining our position and decision to provide a letter from the City on that position.

Mayor Baltutis commented on the budget expenses for the elections and asked for future considerations related to our Charter and election policies. He asked for future discussion about the costs for general and primary elections to consider alternative elections styles such as run-off elections to change the system of double spending for the election.

Council Member Owen inquired about the consideration of moving the municipal elections to even numbered years and sought feedback on whether that would increase the voter participation for City Council positions.

Mayor Baltutis responded it would increase participation but not necessarily the quality of the participation based on feedback from conversations with Winston Salem Council Member, who is on an even year system, related to challenges with municipal elections amid all the noise during those larger election years.

Council Member Owen disagreed and noted he appreciated the point made about competition during those election years and expressed voter turnout was the focus for him.

Mayor Baltutis concurred with voter turnout and the importance of voter engagement. He stated one of his biggest concerns with the recent push from the State Board of Elections is the time to serve fixed with our current terms and the additional year that adds to our current terms and uncertainty of being entitled to do so.

Council Member Owen expressed interest in the State Board of Elections opinion on that and perhaps additional legal advice may be needed from City Attorney in that case.

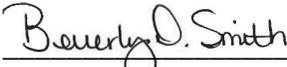
City Attorney David Huffman commented on a recent blog post from Coates Canons, written by Robert Joyce on the subject matter, and stated he would forward that to City Council as it responds to many of the questions being raised. He stated he is preparing a memo to Council regarding the subject matter related to our Charter and the elections policy.

Council Member Ward suggested a more comprehensive discussion in the future to discuss the various topics, expressed interest in the plans for other municipalities in Alamance County, and prefers a more in-depth overview.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes commented on the importance and validity of voter turnout, not losing sight of local policies, and challenges keeping up with all those races in an even year.

Following a lengthy discussion, Council consensus was to consider the input of all Council Members before moving forward with a decision on a letter to Representative Dennis Riddell at the City Comments during the March 2, 2021, City Council Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.



Beverly D. Smith, NCCMC
Interim City Clerk

March 1, 2021
Work Session