

Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee
Virtual/In Person Meeting
March 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and stated all Committee Members are participating in-person. Because a Non-Committee Member, Council Member Barbara Burke, is participating virtually, the North Carolina General Statutes states this meeting is a virtual or remote meeting and is being streamed live.

Present:

Mayor Pro Tempore Denise D. Adams, Chair
Council Member Annette Scippio, Vice Chair
Council Member Robert Clark
Council Member Kevin Mundy

Additional Attendees:

Council Member Jeff MacIntosh
Council Member John Larson
Council Member Barbara Hanes Burke (virtual)

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Adams stated the Committee would first consider the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any items that needed to be removed for discussion. No items were removed.

A motion was made by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Scippio, for approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye:** Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, Council Member Scippio, Council Member Mundy, and Council Member Clark
- C-1.** Resolution Regarding the North Carolina League of Municipalities' 2022 City Vision Conference.
Approved by the Consent Vote.
- C-2.** Resolution Amending Article II of the City of Winston-Salem Personnel Resolution Adjusting the Flat Rate Pay Plan.
Approved by the Consent Vote.
- C-3.** Public Hearing on Ordinance Amending Chapters 6, 8, And 10 Of The Unified Development Ordinances (UDO) In Response To The NC General Assembly's Passage Of SB300 Part XIII, Decriminalization Of Certain Ordinances (UDO-CC16).
Approved by the Consent Vote.
- C-4.** Resolution Adopting the City of Winston-Salem's Legislative Priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session.

Approved by the Consent Vote.

- C-5.** Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement Between the City and Forsyth County to Maintain the Jointly Owned Property Located at 2530 Pittsburg Avenue.

Approved by the Consent Vote.

- C-6.** Approval of Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee Summary of Minutes.

Approved by the Consent Vote.

GENERAL AGENDA

- G-1.** Resolution Calling Upon The Federal Government To Urgently Address The Student Loan Crisis And Enact A Plan To Cancel Student Loan Debt And Begin The Transition To Education As A Public Good.

Angela Carmon, City Attorney, provided the staff report for this item.

Council Member Clark stated he did not support this item because he did not feel it was an issue that pertained to the City.

Council Member Scippio spoke of her support of this item because of the enormous amount of debt young students are burdened with.

Council Member MacIntosh stated he had an issue with making empty gestures on things the City Council has no influence over.

Council Member Larson said things need to change with higher education, but that wouldn't be solved by bailing everybody out without relieving the problem.

Council Member Burke stated this was a statement of solidarity and a good way to send a message of support.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams stated she asked the City Attorney to bring this item, and although she understood other Council Member's reluctance of this item, she has seen multiple issues that have change at the federal level when local governments have spoken up about them.

A motion was made by Council Member Scippio, seconded by Council Member Mundy, for approval of item G-1. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Mayor Pro Tempore Adams, Council Member Scippio, and Council Member Mundy

Nay: Council Member Clark

- G-2.** Information on Ordinances Amending Chapter 2, Entitled “Administration” to create: (a) Section 2-9 “Sale or Lease of City Owned Property for Affordable Housing Purposes”,

and (b) 2-10 “City of Winston-Salem Housing Justice Act”

Angela Carmon, City Attorney, provided the staff report for this item.

Marla Newman, Community Development Director, provided further information regarding future sales of properties that utilize this program.

Council Member Clark requested further information regarding how this program compares to the Choice Neighborhood projects at the former Brown Elementary site and Cleveland Avenue Homes.

Council Member Scippio noted her concern with the 30 year restriction.

Mrs. Carmon stated that the Council could always review the 30 year provision in 10 years and reevaluate if the 30 years is appropriate.

Council Member Burke requested that the properties in the Northeast Ward be removed from the affordable housing list to discuss the with residents what they wanted to see happen with those properties.

G-3. Information on the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Phase 2 Funding Gap.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams stated this item was presented and discussed at the Finance Committee and asked if any Council Members had any more questions.

Council Member Scippio asked what the next Steps were.

Marla Newman, Community Development Director, answered that staff would bring the item back next month for action, and hopefully have some recommendations for possible funding sources.

G-4. Information Regarding the Development of a Transformational Center in the Liberty Street Corridor. (Northeast Ward)

Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager, provided the staff report for this item.

Council Member Burke spoke of her vision for this Transformation Center in the Northeast Ward and what it could accomplish for the Ward and the City.

Council Member Clark recommended staff take in to consideration the special needs with certain trades, such as welding, when designing the center.

Council Member Scippio requested more information regarding the ongoing operating costs, as well as where those funds would come from, and who will run the center.

Lee Garrity, City Manager, stated that this area has the worst economic indicators for quality of life and that is why staff worked so hard to get the Choice Neighborhood

Grants, and this transformation center could continue to improve those quality of life indicators.

Council Member Mundy requested more information on the potential funding for the ongoing operational and maintenance costs and asked if funds could come from the ARPA funds.

Council Member Larson recommended partnering with other organizations, such as Forsyth Tech, who have ongoing programs that teach the different trades that are being considered for the transformational center.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams said this area has very high crime rates and this would be an investment in improving the area in the future.

G-5. Information Regarding the City of Winston-Salem’s Recruitment and Retention Efforts.

Council Member Clark asked about the yearly cost for implementing these recommendations.

Marquis Barnett, Human Resources Director, answered that the total for the items they have calculated is \$3.8 million, but that doesn't include adding the extra holidays.

Council Member Clark requested a chart to show how we compare to other cities with these expenses.

G-6. Update on Implementation of the City’s COVID-19 Vaccination Incentives and Testing Policy.

Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager, provided the staff report for this item.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams requested information on the number of vaccinated employees that have gotten COVID.

Council Member Clark requested staff to come back with recommendations for when we can stop testing unvaccinated employees.

Council Member Mundy suggested staff look into the vaccination rate of Forsyth County to determine when we can stop testing unvaccinated employees.

Council Member Scippio requested information on the possible indefinite suspension.

Marquis Barnett, Human Resources Director, stated that there had been no indefinite suspensions.

Mayor Pro Tempore Adams requested more information on the virus, vaccinations, and testing for the City. She also requested information on what the other 10 major cities in the State are doing regarding testing.

Council Member Clark requested staff reach out to the local medical professionals to comment at what percentage we could stop testing.

Council Member Scippio requested staff to look in to if the unvaccinated employees were concentrated in any one department.

G-7. Information on Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of City Code Entitled “Administration” Regarding Remote Participation In Meetings.

Angela Carmon, City Attorney, provided the staff report for this item.

G-8. Update on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.

Toneq' McCullough, Director of Transportation, provided the staff report for this item.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.