

DURHAM CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Thursday, January 24, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Committee Room – 101 City Hall Plaza

The Durham City Council held a Work Session on the above date and time in the City Council Committee Room located at 101 City Hall Plaza with the following members present: Mayor Steve Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Jillian Johnson and Council Members Vernetta Alston, Javiera Caballero, DeDreana Freeman and Council Member Mark-Anthony Middleton. Excused Absence: Council Member Charlie Reece.

Also present: Deputy City Manager Wanda Page, Interim City Attorney Kim Rehberg and City Clerk Diana Schreiber.

Mayor Schewel called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

MOTION by Council Member Middleton, seconded by Council Member Caballero, to provide an excused absence to their colleague, Council Member Reece, from the Work Session; motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Schewel announced a Special Work Session was scheduled for February 21, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Committee Room to discuss the city's affordable housing strategy.

Mayor Schewel announced that at the Work Session on February 7, 2019 the Environmental Affairs Board will present a resolution concerning the city's energy bonus and would like Council's approval on the item that day.

Deputy City Manager Page noted a number of priority items: the Administration requested a presentation by the Director of Parks and Recreation Rhonda Parker regarding the *My Durham Teen Program*; due to impending deadlines, requested that Council suspend the rules and vote on Item #2, Uniformed, Unarmed Security Guard Services for the City's Parking Facilities and Item #5, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Finish Line Grant.

MOTION by Council Member Caballero, seconded by Council Member Alston, to accept the Deputy City Manager's Priority Items; motion passed unanimously.

The Interim City Attorney and City Clerk had no priority items.

Mayor Schewel read the Departmental Items individually as was on the printed agenda and pulled the following items for comments and/or further discussion by the Council: Item #2, Uniformed, Unarmed Security Guard Services for the City's Parking Facilities and Item #5, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Finish Line Grant. 2

Mayor Schewel stated it was time for Citizens' Matters.

SUBJECT: CITIZEN'S MATTER: JOSH RAVITCH (ITEM 8; PR 12944)

To receive comments from Mr. Ravitch regarding Police training.

Mr. Ravitch spoke to retired Police Chief Ramsey of Philadelphia and his professional background that included a police exchange program in Israel when he was Police Chief in Washington D.C.; itemized what was true and not true about police exchange training programs; called on the Council to rescind their April 16 statement banning all police exchanges with Israel and stated he was part of the NC Coalition for Israel.

SUBJECT: CITIZEN'S MATTER: HEATH KNIGHT (ITEM 9; PR 12945)

To receive comments from Ms. Knight regarding consistent and clearly defined requirements for adding accessory dwelling units (ADU).

Ms. Knight referenced a matter from October 2018 when she discovered her home was filled with mold and spoke to the remediations that followed; referenced a leaking water line for 800 days caused by utility excavations/digs; spoke to illegal incursions by Google and AT&T onto her property; and thanked city staff and Council for their support and urged their support in getting her questions answered about a potential ADU on her property.

SUBJECT: CITIZEN'S MATTER: SANDRA JENRETTE (ITEM 10, PR 12946)

To receive comments from Ms. Jenrette regarding waiving fees for seniors to attend exercise classes at Edison Johnson and all other city-funded facilities.

Ms. Jenrette addressed financial requirements for seniors to attend classes under the auspices of Durham Parks and Recreation; and asked that if children under 18 years old had their fees waived, could fees be waived for the seniors.

Another member of the fitness class spoke in support of the class' continuation.

Director of Parks and Recreation Rhonda Parker responded that staff had met with the exercise class participants; noted that payments had been converted from manual to electronic, with the reevaluation, there was a discovery that participants had been under-charged; asked staff to break down the current fees and noted that fee costs per year and per class. Director Parker stated that persons receiving DSS services were eligible for fee waivers and staff was researching the possibility of connecting with the Silver Sneakers Program.

Council inquired about the term, 'discovered' and asked for explanation and asked what constituted a fee waiver and eligibility. Director Parker indicated that information was available on the Durham Parks and Recreation website and would provide the link to Council. 3

SUBJECT: JOEL FREELANDER (ITEM 11; PR 12947)

To receive comments from Joel Freeland regarding anti-Semitism.

Mr. Frelander addressed anti-Semitism acts occurring locally and accusations about Israel; spoke to historical facts about Israel about suffering and enduring; requested that Council rescind their April 16 statement on banning police exchanges with Israel police; stated that the truth matters and that lies were the basis for anti-Semitism; and thanked Council from the NC Coalition for Israel.

SUBJECT: KATHRYN WOLF (ITEM 12; PR 12948)

To receive comments from Ms. Wolf regarding anti-Semitism in Durham due to City Council's resolution.

Ms. Wolf spoke about the zeitgeist of 'cool' and its mood of the times; detailed her great Uncle Marty's participation on a jury to consider a case in Baltimore in the 1950s against an African-American motorist who was accused of causing an accident of another driver; she stated her great uncle refused to convict the African-American driver amidst pressure to do so; addressed concerns about demonizing Israel and casting Jewish persons as the enemy; demanded Council retract its anti-Jewish resolution; and stated she was a member of the NC Coalition for Israel.

SUBJECT: REVEREND MELVIN WHITLEY (ITEM 13; PR 12949)

To receive comments from Reverend Melvin Whitley regarding preventing excessive residential water bills.

Rev. Whitley stated that no one should receive a \$18,000 water bill; explained his client was in the hospital for nine months and noted there was a lack of communication between his client and the city; and spoke to needing a way to identify the locations of disabled persons by the Water Department.

Heidi Hackett, Utility Finance Manager, explained the resident's meter was being estimated based on average usage, a bill was generated, staff conducted a 'true' reading, made the normal adjustment after the resident returned home from the hospital and the account has been reconciled; spoke to normal procedures on accounts that were not estimated that involved a resident receiving a 'high usage' letter based off normal average usages; and explained that a Medical Alert Program was available to protect residents with medical issues- the program protected residents from water turn-offs.

Council Member Freeman added that Emergency Services had a medical alert system that was self-reported, not automatic; and encouraged Rev. Whitley to attend the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities to participate in the discussion of emergency services and the disabled.

Council Member Caballero inquired if the high usage letter was composed in English and other languages. 4

Ms. Hackett replied that the letter was provided in English unless the Department was aware a resident was a Spanish speaker, in that case, a Spanish version was provided.

SUBJECT: MY DURHAM TEEN PROGRAM

Parks and Recreation Director Parker made a presentation on the My Durham Teen Program at the Teen Center; displayed a video clip that highlighted teens working in a music studio and learning digital instrumentation in order to make their own music CD and video game; and thanked Council for supporting the program.

Council inquired about starting a Teen Center at Holton Resource Center and that furniture was needed for the location; and requested copies of the CD.

**SUBJECT: UNIFORMED, UNARMED SECURITY GUARD SERVICES FOR THE CITY'S
PARKING FACILITIES (ITEM 2/ PR 12883)**

Council Member Middleton inquired about the rate of pay per hour for the security guards as specified in the contract.

Thomas Leathers, Parking Manager II, confirmed that the guards would be paid \$15.00 per hour.

MOTION by Council Member Middleton, seconded by Council Member Caballero, to suspend the rules to vote on the item; motion passed unanimously.

MOTION by Council Member Middleton, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Universal Protection Services, LLC for an initial two-year contract period, with a one-year option contract period, for a total three-year contract amount not to exceed \$2,589,350.40 was approved at 1:47 p.m. by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, Council Members Alston, Caballero, Freeman and Middleton. Noes: None. Excused Absence: Council Member Reece.

**SUBJECT: WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) FINISH LINE
GRANT (ITEM 5/ PR 12918)**

Council Member Alston inquired about financial emergencies and challenges, were they set by the state or did the institution have regulatory discretion as to what constituted a hardship.

Adria Graham-Scott, representing Office of Economic and Workforce Development, explained that the Finish Line Program was relatively new and set forth by the NC Governor in Fall 2018; stated there have been adjustments based on the feedback of persons who were attempting to participate; and provided an example of hardship.

Council Member Freeman inquired if the grant would be helpful in the YouthWork Internship funding. 5

Ms. Graham-Scott responded that the grant spoke specifically to community college participants who were 50% in completion of their curriculum and up to the age of 24; if the participants were enrolled and had hardships, they could apply for the funding.

MOTION by Council Member Caballero, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, to suspend the rules to vote on the item; motion passed unanimously.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, seconded by Council Member Alston, to adopt the City of Durham Employment Training 2018- 2020 Grant Project Ordinance Superseding Project Ordinance #15305; and

To authorize execution of the grant agreement was approved at 1:50 p.m. by the following vote: Ayes: Mayor Schewel, Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, Council Members Alston, Caballero, Freeman and Middleton. Noes: None. Excused Absence: Council Member Reece.

ORDINANCE #15431

SETTLING THE AGENDA – FEBRUARY 4, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Deputy City Manager Page announced the items for the February 4, 2019 City Council Meeting agenda: Consent Items 1, 3-4, and 6-7. There were no General Business or Public Hearing items.

Being no additional business to come before Council, Council adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Diana Schreiber, CMC, NCCMC

City Clerk