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, Mark-Anthony Middleton and Charlie Reece. Absent: None.

Also present: Deputy City Manager William “Bo” Ferguson, City Attorney Kimberly Rehberg and City Clerk Diana Schreiber.

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

Mayor Schewel asked if there were any announcements by Council. There were no announcements by Council.

Mayor Schewel requested priority items from the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk.

Deputy City Manager Ferguson stated that the City Manager’s Office had three priority items:

1. Request for Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 Section A6 to hear or investigate a complaint, charge or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee
2. Item 31- Citizen’s Matter: Marshall Botvinick: attachment added by citizen
3. Item 33- Citizen’s Matter: Georgia Welch: speaker would not be appearing

MOTION by Council Member Caballero, seconded by Council Member Freeman to accept the City Manager’s priority items. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no priority items from the City Attorney and City Clerk.

Mayor Schewel read the administrative consent items from the printed agenda and pulled the following items for further comment and/or discussion: Items 6, 9, 13, and 23.

Mayor Schewel remarked that Item #4, Mayor’s Nominee for Appointment – Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau dba Discover Durham consisted of his appointment of Michael D. Page. Mayor Schewel continued by stating that Mr. Page in his role would be representing the City at-large, as well as, NC Central University.
Mayor Schewel announced that it was time for Citizen’s Matters.

**SUBJECT:  CHRIS TIFFANY (ITEM 30/ PR 13577)**

To receive comments from Chris Tiffany regarding Fashion Police used by authorities to dominate, control and enforce social inequality.

Mr. Tiffany made remarks about how certain police officers had responded to persons wearing certain types of clothing.

**SUBJECT:  MARSHALL BOTVINICK (ITEM 31/ PR 13578)**

To receive comments from Marshall Botvinick regarding funding for Durham artists and arts organizations.

Mr. Botvinick proposed a grant program to distribute $1.2 million to local artists in Durham, known as an arts grant program then described the criteria. He asked Council to commit the funding for the proposed grant program.

Mayor Schewel asked the artists and city administration to speak with the Cultural Advisory Board to address the proposal by the local artists.

**SUBJECT:  ALYSSA NOBLE (ITEM 32/ PR 13579)**

To receive comments from Alyssa Noble regarding funding for Durham independent artists.

Ms. Noble spoke about her experiences as an independent, professional artist in the local dance community; mentioned that the dancers existed in a market of scarcity and supported the proposed arts grant program as stated by Mr. Botvinick.

**SUBJECT:  PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKER:  JACK REITZ**

Mr. Reitz, co-founder of performance space called Mettlesome, addressed difficult financial experiences of local performance artists and directors; and spoke in support of the proposed grant program.

Mayor Schewel spoke to the artists in attendance by addressing the concept of grants for artists and artistic groups and the issue of facilities; and stated he knew there were private resources in the community that could be marshalled to help support local artists.

**SUBJECT:  INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY AND THE CITY OF DURHAM TO CONDUCT PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB) CYCLE 1 EVALUATION (ITEM 6/ PR 13544)**
Council Member Alston acknowledged and supported the partnership between NC Central University and the Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee; and asked for a reminder in how the delegation of duties had evolved and if there had been measurable feedback that could be utilized by the Steering Committee pertaining to the reconfiguration of the PB districts.

Robin Baker, Budget and Management, deferred to Dr. Christopher Paul, Assistant Professor at NC Central University to respond.

Dr. Paul stated that NC Central University would participate in evaluating the PB process in regard to wards and would provide feedback to Council.

Mayor Schewel inquired if NCCU would be advising the PB Steering Committee on the geographical boundaries for the next cycle.

Council Member Alston summarized that Council wanted a recommendation in the next year about the geographical boundaries that would be utilized in the subsequent PB cycle.

**SUBJECT: CONTRACT FOR LANDFILL GROUNDWATER MONITORING SERVICES (ITEM 9/ PR 13515)**

Mayor Schewel inquired about racial demographics of the contractor.

Jim Harding, Project Manager, introduced representative of the company, Smith Gardner. Joan Smith, President, elaborated on her company’s workforce statistics.

Ms. Smith addressed the difficulty in recruiting minority employees and spoke to her company’s outreach efforts.

Mayor Schewel stated the city was very interested in hiring contractors who reflected the city’s focus on diversity and encouraged the contractor to consider ways of diversifying its workforce.

Council Members encouraged Ms. Smith to allocate funds toward a formal recruitment strategy, hiring of formerly incarcerated, exploring and expanding Historically Black College civil engineering recruitment, and urged participation in the Summer Youth Internship Program.

Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson referenced the memo that addressed Water Management and the Equity and Inclusion staffs who reviewed the RFPs. She stated that staff had selected this contractor and requested insights into conversations that occurred around the workforce statistics’ issue and whether the firm was more qualified than other firms possessing more diverse workforces.

Mr. Harding spoke to the input received from the Departments.
Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson continued that this type of contract was allowed to be offered to firms who were not necessarily the lowest responsive bidder and in turn, allowed Council the opportunity to prioritize workforce diversity. She asked about the workforce diversity of the other firms who had applied and why the firms with more diversity were not selected.

Director Greeley responded that this information would be gathered and provided to Council as an attachment to the agenda item.

Council Member Freeman encouraged staff speak with the Equity and Inclusion Team around what prioritizing workforce diversity meant and how it looked going forward, and noted that workforce diversity was not being addressed until the contracting process reached Council.

Council Member Middleton acknowledged that he wanted to associate his comments to that of his colleague, Council Member Caballero by stating that “I want to go on record suggesting that if there’s no such things as the general engineering job and that they’re all specialized and highly esoteric then there are black and brown folk out there getting degrees in these areas and we probably need to do a better job at wooing them and leaning in and having companies that actually put resources into finding these folk.”

Debra Giles, Director of the Equity and Inclusion, contributed to the conversation by stating that workforce was not a focus of the city’s ordinance and that her staff collected the information since it was important to Council but added the statistics were not part of compliance.

Council Member Freeman stated it was not the companies’ responsibility but rather it was the city’s responsibility to push for contracting with companies with that featured equity and assurance.

Director Giles explained that one of the reasons it was not focused upon was dependent on advice from the City Attorney’s Office.

**SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS WATER AND SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECTS – CONTRACT 2 FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. (ITEM 13/PR 13555)**

Council Member Freeman inquired about the contract for this item that was associated with a much larger firm with low diversity figures and inquired about the contract’s outreach efforts and if it included equitable engagement.

Director Greeley responded to the outreach question by stating community outreach consisted of three levels: prior to surveying, pre-construction and design and pre-kick off; and would include equitable engagement internally and externally.
SUBJECT: CITY/DURHAM COUNTY YOUTHWORK INTERNSHIP PROGRAM INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (ITEM 23/ PR 13536)

Mayor Schewel inquired about the number of internships funded by Durham County; and asked about the total goal for next summer.

James Dickens, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, responded that Durham County was funding fifty positions; half in Durham County and half at the City with reimbursements expected to cover the city positions. He said that 600 positions were the goal for next summer; and reminded Council that there were 210 summer youth interns this past summer with 38 youth involved in the pilot program for younger workers, resulting in 248 total.

Mayor Schewel encouraged local businesses to step up and participate by hosting youth interns.

[PRESENTATION]

SUBJECT: RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION 2019 ANNUAL PRESENTATION (ITEM 28/ PR 13572)

Mayor Schewel introduced the Recreation Advisory Commission presentation.

Rhonda Parker, Director of Parks & Recreation, introduced David Green, a five-year volunteer and Chair of the Commission.

Mr. Green spoke to the RAC accomplishments for the past year:
- Mission Statement
- RAC Goals and Priorities for FY2020
  - Equity lens to achieve community goals/partnerships
  - Focus on park safety, trails and facilities
- Provided Support for various projects
- RAC Park Tour
- Created RAC Park Safety Subcommittee
- Attended DOST Annual Durham Trails Tour
- PB participation and advocacy
- Community Engagement/Training/Volunteer Efforts
- RAC Recommendations:
  - Replace spin bikes at various rec centers
  - FY20 CIP Prelist Rankings
  - Rules of Conduct & Security during Jr NBA Leagues
  - Organizations Facility and Field Fee Waiver requests
- RAC Park Tour – October 18, 2018
  - Listing of participating parks
- RAC Retreat
Short & Long Term goals  
Aquatic Master Plan  
DPR Programs and Advocacy  
Community Engagement

Council Member Alston spoke to the Safety Subcommittee, wanted parks to feel safe and welcoming and urged committee members to be thoughtful of the delicate balance between the two concepts; and stated local youth were supportive of updated aquatic options.

Mayor Schewel broached the topic of expanding the RAC membership by approximately two positions; and encouraged the RAC to consider the expansion.

City Clerk Schreiber announced that Council nominated Lavesh Pritmani to the Durham Cultural Advisory Board and the following nominations to the Hispanic/Latino Committee:

Kiara Aranda  
Dulce J. Castillo Chavez  
Amanda Castizo  
Anabel Franceschini Rosa  
Marcos Itlahuel  
Noel James  
Italo Medelius  
Maralis B. Mercado Emerson  
Vicky Munizquinones  
Linda Stone  
Dariana Vargas Villanueva

Settling the Agenda – November 4, 2019 City Council Meeting

Deputy City Manager Ferguson referenced the following items for the November 4, 2019 City Council meeting agenda: Consent Items 1-27; and General Business Agenda Item 29.

Council Member Reece remarked that Item 29, 4809 Farrington Road re-rezoning, was associated with the formerly identified location of the rail operations and maintenance facility project.

MOTION by Council Member Freeman, seconded by Council Member Caballero, to settle the agenda by the Deputy City Manager for the November 4, 2019 City Council Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
Council Entered Closed Session – 2:07 p.m.

MOTION by Council Member Freeman, seconded by Council Member Caballero, to enter into Closed Session at 2:07 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Returned to Open Session – 3:35 p.m.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tempore Johnson, seconded by Council Member Freeman, to return to open session at 3:35 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

No action taken on the item.

Being no further business to address, the Work Session was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Diana Schreiber, CMC
City Clerk