

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting  
City Hall Council Chamber

November 7, 2022  
Monday, 6:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor O. Stanhope Anthony III, presiding; Council Members Andrew L. Hopper Sr., David White, David Causby, Charles Webber, and Emilie Bullock.; Assistant City Manager Justin S. Merritt, Assistant City Manager Benjamin (Ben) Yarboro, City Clerk Carol Williams, Deputy City Clerk Breanna Jones, Public Information and Communications Officer, Chip Nuhrah, Director of Human Resources Deborah (Deb) Jolly, Police Chief Jeffrey (Jeff) Ledford, Fire Chief William P. Hunt, MPA, EFO, Interim Director of Public Works Scott Black, and Jennipher H. Harrill, Social Media Manager, Blue Eyes Media Connections

**Absent:** Council member Violet Arth, and City Manager Rick Howell

Mayor Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and delivered the invocation.

Mr. Hopper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### A. Approval of agenda:

Mayor Anthony requested the removal of the Closed Session (Item H) due to Mr. Howell's absence.

- 1) Motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Upon a motion by Mr. White, City Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

### B. Special Presentations:

- 1) Sunset Cemetery Project Presentation - Zach Dressel and Chavis Gash, presenting

Mayor Anthony called upon and welcomed Mr. Dressel and Mr. Gash. Mr. Gash thanked City Council and City staff for allowing them to present their project regarding Sunset Cemetery.

Mr. Dressel stated this project came about in May, 2020 when a historic map from 1886 was found in Cleveland County's historic collection. Some focuses of this project are the following:

- I. Brief Overview of the Project:

- **Sunset Cemetery, which has served as Shelby’s most prominent cemetery for nearly 200 years, has an unmarked section with graves of African Americans that date back to at least 1876.**
- **This section lies on the western side of the old section of the cemetery and is currently a large open grassy field.**
- **A committee of concerned citizens was formed in January of 2021 with the express purpose of investigating the site and working through options for raising awareness of its historical and cultural value.**

**II. Purpose of the Project:**

- **To memorialize those whose remains are buried in the section of the cemetery that are known and unknown.**
- **To use the space as an educational opportunity about the history of our local community and its ancestors, which will further create equality in the historical narrative of Shelby.**
- **To create connections with the local community through focus groups and public projects engaging local churches, youth organizations, and civic groups.**

**III. Desired Outcomes:**

- **To memorialize individuals at Sunset Cemetery’s identified section and share historical information found.**
- **To develop educational programming around the information found and have on-going community engagement surrounding information found about the cemetery.**

**IV. Our proposal for the section of the cemetery:**

- **Put directional markers and educational markers at the cemetery.**
- **Monument to recognize those buried.**
- **Clean up the forest area in partnership with the Episcopal Church for another GPR study on that site between the church and the cemetery.**

**V. Current Partnerships:**

- **The Project Committee has engaged the Episcopal Church as possible burials seem to extend to their property.**
- **The church has been very cooperative in pursuit of the purpose of the project.**
- **The Friends of the Park have served as our partner to manage any donations collected for expenses such the GPR study, and other research expenses.**

## **VI. Community/Events/Programs:**

- **Social Media Post & Videos**
- **Field Trips to the property**
- **Focus groups with the community**
- **Collect stories, memories, documents/information**

**Mr. Hopper remembered that Reverend Sam Raper, a longtime City Council member, often spoke of the African American church and cemetery located in that vicinity.**

**Mayor Anthony and City Council commended Mr. Dressel and Mr. Gash on their work on this project. Assistant City Manager Justin Merritt mentioned that City staff along with Mr. Dressel and Mr. Gash could draft a resolution to direct how City Council moves forward with this project. Council was in consensus of this proposal.**

### **2) Uptown Shelby Association update – Audrey Whetten Godfrey, Executive Director**

**Mayor Anthony called upon Audrey Whetten Godfrey. The Mayor recognized that Mrs. Godfrey is leaving Uptown Shelby Association after nine years, however, she is joining the City of Shelby in the Planning Department.**

**Mrs. Godfrey recognized Kaitlyn McNeilly, Community Engagement Manager at Uptown Shelby Association, in attendance; and acknowledged she handles events, volunteers and marketing.**

**The highlights of Mrs. Godfrey's presentation are:**

- **Thank you for investing in the twinkling lights on South Lafayette Street**
- **Awarded two façade grants for Queen Bee Home & Décor and Angie Brooke Boutique**
- **New businesses include a retail store, a bakery/restaurant, and a nano-brewery**
- **Many upcoming holiday events are scheduled**

**Mrs. Godfrey recapped what Uptown Shelby Association is and what they do. She stated USA is not part of the City of Shelby or the Cleveland County Chamber, they are a 501©(3) nonprofit organization that follows the Main Street Approach which is an intentional structure that works to grow a stronger, more viable district through promotion, partnerships, economic vitality, and design.**

**Mrs. Godfrey also listed a few ways Uptown Shelby Association has thrived during her tenure and a list of things that need to be focused on in the future.**

**Mrs. Godfrey concluded by stating she is thrilled to be coming to work for the City of Shelby's Planning Department as the Senior Planner.**

**Mr. White expressed his sadness of her leaving Uptown Shelby Association but so happy she's coming to the City of Shelby's Planning Department. Mayor Anthony agreed with Mr. White's sentiments.**

**C. Consent Agenda:**

**Mayor Anthony presented the consent agenda. Mr. Hopper moved to approve the consent agenda and the following items were unanimously adopted:**

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2022**
- 2) Approval of Special Event Application:**
  - a) Uptown Shelby carriage rides and tree lighting – requested date: November 25th, December 2nd, 9th, and 16<sup>th</sup>**
  - b) Shelby Christmas Parade – requested date: Sunday, December 18, 2022**
  - c) Atrium Health Family Holiday Celebration - requested date: December 7, 2022**
- 3) Adoption of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2: Ordinance No. 58-2022**
- 4) Approval of a resolution approving the contract modification for the performance of the City of Shelby's annual audit and preparation of financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022: Resolution No. 67-2022**
- 5) Adoption of an ordinance authorizing demolition of a dwelling at 501 West Graham Street: Ordinance No. 59-2022**
- 6) Management Reports:**
  - a) Financial Summary – September 2022**

**D. Unfinished Business:**

**None**

## **E. New Business**

- 1) Approval of a resolution authorizing project allocations for North Carolina State appropriations for Water and Wastewater projects: Resolution No. 68-2022**

**Mr. Merritt stated this resolution approves the funding allocation plan for the \$10.2 million appropriated from the state budget last year. Mr. Merritt reported that the intent of this resolution is to ensure that City Council is fully informed as to the specific use of these funds and the reasoning behind the recommendation.**

**Mr. Merritt directed Council to a list of projects selected:**

- 24” waterline to South Tank and Forest Hill Dr.**
- Hickory Creek Sewer from Windsor Dr. to Holly Oak**
- Water Treatment Plant filter rehabilitation**
- Water/Sewer improvements to promote residential development**
- Existing water and sewer system repairs and maintenance**

**ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Mr. Causby, City Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 68-2022 entitled, “CITY OF SHELBY AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECT ALLOCATIONS FOR NORTH CAROLINA STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS”**

- 2) Pinnacle Estates Subdivision Underground Electric Installation Project:**

- a) Adoption of Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 3: Ordinance No. 60-2022**
- b) Approval of a resolution awarding the construction contract for the Pinnacle Estates Subdivision Underground Electric Project: Resolution No. 69-2022**

**Mr. Merritt introduced the Pinnacle Estates Subdivision Underground Electric Installation Project that contains two items:**

**Ordinance No. 60-2022 if approved would fund the budget ordinance in the amount of \$106,000 from the Electric fund balance for the extension of the electric system to serve the residential development known as Pinnacle Estates.**

**Resolution No. 69-2022 if approved would award the project to Utility Partners of America so they can begin construction of this project. According to Mr. Merritt, City policy states that the City is responsible for providing electric and gas infrastructure into a residential neighborhood; the developers are responsible for water and sewer infrastructure.**

**ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Mrs. Bullock, City Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance No. 60-2022 entitled, "ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 3" and Resolution No. 69-2022 entitled, "A RESOLUTION AWARDED THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE PINNACLE ESTATES SUBDIVISION UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC PROJECT".**

**F. City Manager's Report:**

▪ **Aquatics Center**

Work on removing the interior finish of the Olympic size pool and the deck. Roof replacement began last week. Bathrooms have been torn out and flooring is being put back in place. Everything is on schedule so far.

▪ **Shell Building #4**

Walls are up, and rafters are up. Everything is on schedule with a completion date is set for January or February 2023.

▪ **Water and Sewer Projects:**

Several projects are ongoing or in the planning phase.

▪ **Paving Projects**

Asphalt Paving of Shelby will be back around Thanksgiving to start that project back up and hopefully will be able to finish the project before moving on.

**G. Council Announcements and Remarks:**

Mayor Anthony reminded Council of several events such as the Veteran's luncheon scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Don Gibson Theater, and the Veteran's Day parade scheduled for Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Anthony, Mr. Causby and Mr. Webber reminded and encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow in the elections. Mr. Webber stated the word vote comes from the word voice, and that many men and women have fought hard for our right to vote.

**Mr. White thanked our Interim City Attorney, Julie Hooten, for attending the meeting. Mr. White reiterated his appreciation to Audrey Whetten Godfrey for all her hard work at Uptown Shelby Association.**

**Mr. Hopper was proud to say that when he was on City Council many years ago and Mr. Webber was the Human Resource Director for the City of Shelby, they were instrumental in getting the Veteran's Day holiday for the city employees.**

**H. Adjournment:**

**1) Motion to adjourn**

**ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Mr. White, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Carol Williams  
City Clerk**

**O. Stanhope Anthony III  
Mayor**

**Minutes of November 7, 2022**