

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
City Hall Council Chamber

April 17, 2023
Monday, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor O. Stanhope Anthony, III, presiding; Council Members Andrew L. Hopper, Sr., David Causby, David White, Violet Arth, Charles Webber, and Emilie Bullock.; City Manager Rick Howell, MPA, ICMA-CM, Assistant City Manager Justin S. Merritt, MPA, Assistant City Manager Ben Yarboro, Interim City Attorney Julie Hooten, City Clerk Carol Williams, Deputy City Clerk Breanna Jones, Director of Human Resources Deborah (Deb) Jolly, Director of Finance Elizabeth (Beth) Beam, CPA, Fire Chief William Hunt, EFO, Interim Police Chief Brad Fraser, Director of Planning and Development Services Walter (Walt) Scharer, Public Works Director Scott Black, Director Parks and Recreation Charlie Holtzclaw, Director of Housing Bryan Howell, Public Information and Communications Officer Chip Nuhrah, and Jennipher H. Harrill, Social Media Manager, Blue Eyes Media Connections;

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

Mr. Causby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Approval of agenda:

- 1) Motion to adopt the proposed agenda as presented.

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

B. Special Presentation:

- 1) Recognition of Jeffrey Harold Ledford on the occasion of his retirement from employment with the City of Shelby: Resolution No. 20-2023

Mayor Anthony called upon Jeff Ledford and formally read and presented framed Resolution No. 20-2023 to Mr. Ledford. He then presented a custom shadowbox in honor of and with heartfelt appreciation for his 30+ years of dedicated service to the City of Shelby.

Humbled by the recognition, Jeff Ledford recognized his wife and Shelby Police Department staff in attendance. Mr. Ledford thanked City Council for their support over the years, and stated this has been a career of a lifetime. Mr.

Ledford stated he's sworn in many people, and he tells them that they are joining 110 of the best law enforcement in the business; and joining 340 of the best employees within the City of Shelby. Mr. Ledford further stated that the City of Shelby is unique because of the way all the departments work so well together. In closing, Mr. Ledford thanked everyone again and he appreciates everyone he's gotten to work with.

Mr. Howell stated that he knew when he was tasked with appointing a new Chief of Police in 2008 that he had the new chief in house. Mr. Howell stated there was a significant hiring process with qualified people, but Mr. Ledford earned his Chief appointment. Mr. Howell stated he knew right away that he had made the correct decision in promoting Mr. Ledford; stating it has been a joy to work with him. Mr. Howell considers Mr. Ledford a friend and an ultimate team player; he will miss him professionally and personally.

In a surprise addition to the meeting, at the Mayor's discretion, Mr. Howell presented outgoing Assistant City Manager Justin Merritt with a framed key to the City. Mr. Howell stated Mr. Merritt has been with the City since 2012; and he is a workhorse that makes things happen. Mr. Howell further stated Mr. Merritt is very humble, not worried about getting credit, and wants to get the job done. Mr. Howell stated he's sad to see Mr. Merritt leave but is really proud of where he's going. Mr. Howell thanked the Mayor and Council for indulging him to make this presentation.

Humbled by the recognition, Mr. Merritt stated that the team he's worked with, and the entire Shelby community has been a very special place for him; and he thanked everyone for their support and this recognition.

C. Public Comment:

Phyllis Williams who resides at 1030-3 Sue Lane, Shelby, North Carolina addressed Council about the lack of adequate affordable housing in Shelby. Ms. Williams presented statistics about the number of people and the demographics of people/families waiting to obtain housing. Ms. Williams stated a home is essential, but far too many families are disrupted because housing is out of reach in Cleveland County. Ms. Williams concluded by stating it is time for a transformative housing agenda.

Jamie Coulter who resides at 401 Edgewood Road, Shelby, North Carolina came on behalf of the Cleveland County Music Hall of Fame. Mr. Coulter stated they plan to host an event on September 23rd, and he asked for direction on how to go about obtaining a Special Event permit. Mayor Anthony instructed Mr. Coulter to contact the City Clerk for the necessary paperwork.

D. Consent Agenda:

Mayor Anthony presented the consent agenda. Ms. Arth moved to approve the consent agenda and the following items were unanimously adopted:

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2023**
- 2) Approval of a resolution declaring the intent of the City Council of the City of Shelby to consider the permanent closure of a portion of Justice Place: Resolution No. 23-2023**
- 3) Approval of Special Event Application:**
 - a) Art of Sound, requested date: June 23 – 24, 2023**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

E. Unfinished Business:

None

F. New Business

- 1) Approval of a resolution awarding the contract for the Substation 10 Copper line Reconductoring Project: Resolution No. 24-2023**

Mr. Howell introduced this resolution and if approved would award a contract to Southeastern T&D in the amount of \$358,044.96 for construction of this project. Mr. Howell reminded Council that in 2016 a 5-year Electric System Planning Study was developed; and this is one of the projects that was identified. Due to COVID some work has been slowed but the City is now ready to proceed. Mr. Howell concluded by stating this project would replace a significant amount of the old brittle copper wiring in the system.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Hopper, City Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 24-2023 entitled, "A RESOLUTION AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE SUBSTATION 10 COPPER LINE RECONDUCTORING PROJECT."

2) Consideration of appointments to City advisory boards and commissions:

a) Housing and Redevelopment Board

Mayor Anthony reported the terms of three incumbents, Keith Hawkins, Sharon Leigh, and Tanzy Wallace, concluded March 2023. Mr. Hawkins wishes to step down; Ms. Leigh and Ms. Wallace wish to continue their service.

There is one application on file in the Clerk's office:

- **Debra Littlejohn**

Mr. Hopper nominated Debra Littlejohn.

Mr. White nominated Sharon Leigh.

Ms. Arth nominated Tanzy Wallace.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Webber, City Council voted unanimously to close the nominations and accept the nominees by acclamation.”

G. City Manager's Report

- **Regarding the City Hall Roof replacement project: It is obviously ongoing, and the slate will be installed as early as tomorrow morning.**
- **Regarding the Aquatics Center project: It is moving along with a turnover date of May 15th so staff can start filling the pool and getting ready for the Memorial Day weekend opening.**
- **Regarding Phase 1 of the Rail Trail: It is moving along with a completion date pushed back to mid to late July, 2023.**

H. Council Announcements and Remarks:

Mayor Anthony reminded Council of the NCLM CityVision conference next week in Concord, NC. Mayor Anthony suggested that Mr. Howell send out a proposed agenda for the events that Council is interested in.

Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Howell about the Budget Workshops. Mr. Howell requested they be postponed to possibly the first or second week of May.

Mayor Anthony announced there is a Litter Sweep this Saturday, April 22nd on Gidney Street, meet at the warehouse.

Mayor Anthony stated the Merry Go Round festival awards banquet is Thursday, April 27th at 6:15pm at the Don Gibson Theater.

Each of the Council members addressed their appreciation to former Chief Jeff Ledford and Assistant City Manager Justin Merritt, and that they will be missed.

Ms. Bullock also announced the Shelby-Cleveland County Regional Airport Fly-In is scheduled for June 10, 2023.

I. Closed Session:

- 1) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment. Any action approving the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4).**

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. White made a motion to enter a closed session pursuant to the appropriate North Carolina General Statute as cited. The Mayor invited all Council members present along with Mr. Howell, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Merritt, and Mr. Yarboro to attend. The motion passed unanimously, and Council moved into closed session at 6:40 p.m.

Council returned to the regular session at 6:53 p.m.

J. Adjournment:

- 1) Motion to adjourn**

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Ms. Arth, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carol Williams
City Clerk**

**O. Stanhope Anthony, III
Mayor**

Minutes of April 17, 2023