

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Shelby City Council
Don Gibson Theatre

March 4, 2024
Monday, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor O. Stanhope Anthony, III, presiding; Council Members Andrew L. Hopper, Sr., David Causby, Violet Arth, David White, Charles Webber, and Emilie Bullock; City Manager Rick Howell, MPA, ICMA-CM, Assistant City Manager Ben Yarboro, Assistant City Manager Justin Longino, MBA, City Attorney Jason Lunsford, 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, Chief of Police Brad Fraser, Public Works Director Scott Black, Director Parks and Recreation Charlie Holtzclaw, Director of Water Resources Brian Wilson, 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. Hopper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Approval of agenda:

- 1) Motion to adopt the proposed agenda presented.

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

B. Special Presentations:

- 1) Uptown Shelby Association Update - Carly Bostic, Executive Director

Ms. Bostic provided City Council with a recap for 2023 and an update for 2024 which include the following:

- Santa saw about 800 kids at the Santa House this year.
- The carriage rides were made into a fundraiser this year which was a success.
- The Christmas Parade was unfortunately cancelled due to the rain, but contingency plans are being made for future parades.

- Uptown Shelby Association is taking a break from the Shelby Alive concert series due to the increase in costs and a decrease in participation.
- A new overall goal is economic vitality and to support Uptown merchants so events will be targeted in this direction.
- New events include Uptown Block Party on May 18th which will be an all-day concert series with lunch specials at Uptown restaurants, shopping specials and other ways to increase economic vitality.
- In 2023 Uptown Shelby Association was featured in eight different media pieces.
- Ms. Bostic attended the Women's Economic Development conference recently and gained new ideas.
- USA is working with the ALWS and the Livermush Festival to become a stronger liaison between those organizations and Uptown merchants to increase dining and shopping during those events.
- USA has updated their website which has increased the number of recipients of their newsletter.
- USA has received their accreditation from the NC Main Street Association and will attend that conference next week.
- USA raised over \$12,000 in fundraising efforts in 2023 and have a total of 16,571 followers on social media.
- The USA annual report will be provided to City Council in the next few days.
- In 2023 USA had a total of 630 volunteer hours, volunteer dollar amount was \$18,800 and total sponsorship donations and in-kind services was \$34,900.

Mayor Anthony inquired about the contingency plans for the Christmas parade. Ms. Bostic related that they were going to move the Christmas parade to an earlier date so they could schedule an alternate date if needed. Also, instead of using a third party for the parade floats, let people build their own floats which would allow USA more freedom in changing the date if needed.

2) Richard Hooker presentation – HBCU College and Career Day, March 13, 2024

Mr. Hooker thanked City Council for the Historic Black Colleges and Universities proclamation regarding the College and Career Day which is set for March 13, 2024. In addition to the College and Career Fair, there is a gala on March 12th at Harvest Church. Mr. Hooker gave examples of the impact the HBCUs have made in this community and in the country. North Carolina has the second largest number of HBCUs in the nation and represents the largest

number of students in the country that attend HBCUs. Mr. Hooker provided data points as follows:

80% of black judges graduated from an HBCU

50% of black teachers graduated from an HBCU

70% of black doctors graduated from an HBCU

40% of black engineers graduated from an HBCU

40% of black Congressional caucus members graduated from HBCU

70% of black dentists graduated from an HBCU

Mr. Hooker concluded by stating that HBCUs represent a beacon of hope and serves as a reservoir of talent that helps our families and communities. HBCUs make a difference and have shaped the landscape of America.

C. Consent Agenda:

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

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2024**
- 2) Approval of a resolution to host the display for the Cleveland County Fellowship of Christian Athletes Sports and Recreation Hall of Fame, Annual Awards Banquet, and Annual Selection Committee meetings at Shelby City Park: Resolution No. 18-2024**
- 3) Approval of a resolution authorizing execution of a contract for Fire Suppression Services under Automatic Aid between the City of Shelby and Shanghai Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Shanghai Fire District): Resolution No. 19-2024**
- 4) Approval of a resolution authorizing execution of a contract for Fire Suppression Services under Automatic Aid between the City of Shelby and Number Seven Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Lattimore Fire District): Resolution No. 20-2024**
- 5) Approval of a resolution authorizing execution of a contract for Fire Suppression Services under Automatic Aid between the City of Shelby and Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Gardner Fire District): Resolution No. 21-2024**

- 6) **Adoption of a Grant Project Ordinance for American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Ordinance No. 18-2024**
- 7) **Adoption of a budget ordinance amendment for the City of Shelby's Highway 74 Bypass Section D&E Natural Gas Line Relocation Project: Ordinance No. 19-2024**
- 8) **Acceptance of the Certificate of Sufficiency regarding Petition of Annexation of applicant, Caleb Peeler, Eaves Road**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

D. Unfinished Business:

None

E. New Business:

- 1) **Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the City of Shelby, North Carolina**

Mr. Longino began his presentation by stating that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that is presented will start the process of updating the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Mr. Longino stated North Carolina General Statute mandates that a jurisdiction that applies zoning regulations has a comprehensive land use plan to guide those changes. Mr. Longino continued by stating this RFQ is the first step in obtaining a third party outside consulting firm to assist City Council and staff and the community in the development of a new land use plan. Mr. Longino further mentioned that the City has changed significantly since the current plan was adopted in 2009 and in order to ensure everyone is on the same page it is imperative that a current and thorough framework exists.

Mr. Longino continued by stating this RFQ has some intentionally broad aspects to it which allows firms to give some ideas for best practices in the industry and also relate what works well in other communities. Mr. Longino stated that meaningful public participation is encouraged to ensure all viewpoints are gathered. In conclusion, Mr. Longino stated there will be a selection process where a firm will be chosen and then elements of the plan will be refined then put into a formal agreement for City Council to consider. Mr. Longino declared that the City has an aggressive timeline in the RFQ asking firms to work through this process and give a final product within 12 – 18 months from tonight.

Mr. Longino asked City Council for a consensus to proceed with this RFQ with firms having 30 days to respond, then City staff will evaluate the proposals and make a recommendation for Council's approval.

By consensus, City Council gave their approval to proceed with the RFQ process.

2) Consideration of appointment to the North Carolina Municipal Power Agency 1 (NCMPA1) Board of Commissioners as First and Second Alternates:

Currently: Commissioner: Rick Howell
1st Alternate: Justin Merritt
2nd Alternate: Ben Yarboro

Proposed: Commissioner: Rick Howell
1st Alternate: Ben Yarboro
2nd Alternate: Justin Longino

Mr. Howell stated the list of current appointees needs to be updated with the proposed appointees. Mr. Howell stated alternates are needed in case Mr. Howell is not available to attend the NCMPA1 Board of Commissioners meetings.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Ms. Arth, City Council voted unanimously to nominate and appoint Mr. Ben Yarboro by acclamation as the 1st alternate representing the City of Shelby on the NCMPA1 Board of Commissioners and nominate and appoint Mr. Justin Longino as the 2nd alternate representing the City of Shelby on the NCMPA1 Board of Commissioners.

F. City Manager's Report

Mr. Howell didn't have anything to report.

G. Council Announcements and Remarks

Mayor Anthony reminded Council of the upcoming events:

April 3rd – Town and State Dinner, Hickory

April 8th – 11th – Employee Open Enrollment at the Don Gibson Theatre

April 12th – Cleveland Cup 5K at Hanna Park

April 23rd – 25th – City Vision Conference in Winston - Salem

H. 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 a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4).

2) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(5).

3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3).

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. White made a motion to enter a closed session pursuant to the appropriate North Carolina General Statutes as cited. Mayor Anthony invited all Council members present, along with Mr. Howell, Mr. Lunsford, Mr. Longino, Mrs. Jolly, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Jones to attend. The motion passed unanimously, and Council moved into closed session at 6:23 p.m.

At the conclusion of the Closed Session item, Mr. White made a motion for City Council to return to the regular session at 7:09 p.m. and seal the minutes.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Howell updated City Council on the possibility of a downward trend in our Economic Development efforts with the departure of Brandon Ruppe from the Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership. Mr. Ruppe has an offer to move to Edgecombe County in an Economic Development role. Mr. Howell asked City Council for a consensus as to whether the City should ask Mr. Ruppe if he would be willing to stay if the right opportunity was presented. City Council advised Mr. Howell to proceed with a conversation with Mr. Ruppe.

I. Adjournment:

1) Motion to adjourn

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion made by Ms. Arth, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Williams
City Clerk

O. Stanhope Anthony, III
Mayor

Minutes of March 4, 2024