



**CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES– CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday August 7, 2023 @ 5:30 pm**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting began at 5:35pm. Councilmember Inman was not present at the time of roll call. All other members were present.

Councilmember Inman arrived at 5:37 pm.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion – made by Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard to approve the agenda for August 7, 2023. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 5, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
- b. June 15, 2023 at 11 am Millage Rate Public Hearing
- c. June 15, 2023 at 6 pm Millage Rate Public Hearing
- d. June 29, 2023 Millage Rate Public Hearing
- e. July 6, 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
- f. July 7, 2023 Special Called Meeting Minutes

Motion- made by Councilmember Wynn to approve the June 5, 2023 City Council, June 15, 2023 Millage Rate at 11am, June 15, 2023 Millage Rate at 6 pm, June 29, 2023 Millage Rate, July 6, 2023 City Council, and July 7, 2023 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Comments

Citizens wishing to make a public comment may do so in person. Citizens may also submit public comments via email to cityclerk@lithoniacity.org by 2 pm on the day of the meeting to be read by the City Clerk. All members of the public wishing to address the City Council shall submit their name and the topic of their comments to the city clerk prior to the start of any meeting held by the City Council.

VI. Consent Agenda

VII. Public Hearing

Citizens interested in commenting on the public hearing portion of the meeting may comment in person. You may also submit your comment in writing to cityclerk@lithoniacity.org by 2 pm the day of the Public

Hearing to be read into the record at the meeting. If you choose to submit your comment in writing, please include your full name, address, the item you are speaking about and if you are for or against it. When it is your turn to speak, please state your name, address, and relationship to the case. There is a ten (10) minute time allotment for each item per side during all public hearings. Only the applicant may reserve time for rebuttal.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

**a. For Decision – T-Mobile Hometown Grant & Trucks & Tunes event date change –
*Renee Miller Enigma Events***

Renee Miller stated that she wanted to come before the council to discuss grants opportunities for enhancements and improvements to the Amphitheatre to become more ADA compliant. She explained the T-Mobile Hometown Grant and how it could help with the goal of improving our ADA compliance for participants in the events held at the Amphitheatre and stage improvements.

Renee Miller stated that she would like to table the request for an event date change for Trucks and Tunes for the rest of the season. She stated she is looking to reach out to local businesses and restructure the event.

There was no vote. Just discussion.

b. For Decision – SPLOST II – *Chief Dejarnette*

Chief Dejarnette provided an explanation of the SPLOST II funding numbers provided by DeKalb County. He explained that there was an increase in the funding over the last six years and a possibility of additional funding thanks to funds found by unincorporated DeKalb. A meeting is to be held to discuss on August 9, 2023. There was much discussion about current and future SPLOST projects in the city. Chief Dejarnette explained that this would be for or against an estimated value across five categories. Those values and categories are:

- 1.4 million in Transportation Improvements
- 650k Infrastructure
- 125k Facilities Upgrades
- 125k Maintenance and Other
- 300K Public Works/Public Safety

City Clerk, Ashley Waters, read the preamble of the Resolution.

Motion – made by Councilmember Honore to approve the resolution. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. For Discussion – Christmas Lights – *Chief Dejarnette*

Chief Dejarnette stated he wanted to start the conversation about Christmas Lights amongst Council in August so that the city can explore all its options in terms of Christmas lights and decorations throughout the city. He provided an option of having older Christmas lights and decorations refurbished in time for the holiday, the purchase of new holiday decorations, or the combination of the two. There was much discussion about the options and new ideas for the upcoming holiday.

d. For Discussion – Police Cars – *Chief Dejarnette*

Chief Dejarnette stated he wanted to come before the council to make them aware of some of his concerns regarding expenses for repairs to Police Cars. He stated that repair costs in the last year have been extremely high, and he would like to explore the option of speaking to Enterprise Rental Car Company about their Fleet Leasing options. He explained that he would also like to include the City's Accountant in the meeting to ensure that this option would make the most sense financially. There was some discussion on the status of current Police vehicles and the number of new vehicles that would be considered. Chief Dejarnette informed the Mayor and Council that he would bring all the details discussed in an upcoming meeting back before them.

X. Updates and Reports

a. Police Department Report

Chief Dejarnette stated that there have been 8 stolen vehicles recovered in the city in the past two weeks. Aflac Insurance came out to offer benefits to all the full-time employees with plans to return and offer benefits to part-time employees, officers, and reserve officers.

Anthony Brooks, Code Enforcement Officer, gave a brief report and update on properties of concern located throughout the city.

b. Mayor's Report

Mayor Reynolds expressed interest in doing a Midnight basketball event in the city on our own to offset the expenses. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard agreed and stated she would assist in the city putting together the event. Chief Dejarnette stated he would reach out to some contacts about a host/announcer and a possible DJ for the event.

Mayor Reynolds announced to the council that the bill for the City's Attorney's fees was received and it was abnormally high this month. She asked that the council remain mindful when reaching out to the City's Attorney office.

c. Council Member Updates

Councilmember Howard spoke about the successful All Star Lodge Family Day. She stated it was a decent turnout and that they gave away a lot of supplies for kids headed back to school.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard stated she heard a little music over the weekend but that it died very quickly, and she was happy about that. She also thanked all the officers that helped with the Lithonia Alumni Event.

Councilmember Inman did not have an update.

Councilmember Wynn stated that she is attempting to have a health fair for Seniors at the Senior Center. She stated that there will be modern and holistic medicine represented. She said the event would be held September 16th and stated she will need everyone's help to pull it together.

XI. Executive Session (If Necessary)

(When an executive session is required, one will be called for the following issues: 1) Personnel, 2) Litigation, 3) Real Estate)

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to go into Executive Session for personnel. Councilmember Inman seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to exit Executive Session. Councilmember Wynn seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Motion – made by Councilmember Howard to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard seconded.

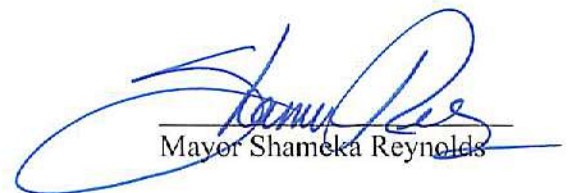
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:36 pm.

Attest:



City Clerk



Mayor Shameka Reynolds