

GASTONIA COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 16, 2020

GASTONIA CITY COUNCILSPECIAL MEETING
June 16, 2020– 4:30 P.M
Spindle Conference Room – City Hall - Gastonia, NC

Mayor Walker E. Reid, III, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on June 16, 2020, in the Spindle Conference Room, City Hall, Gastonia, North Carolina. Ms. Sherry Dunaway, City Clerk, recorded the minutes.

PRESENT: Mayor Walker E. Reid, III
Mayor Pro Tem David Kirlin

Council Members: Robert Kellogg
Jim Gallagher
Charles Odom
Jennifer Stepp
Donyel Barber

City Manager Michael C. Peoples
City Attorney L. Ashley Smith

ABSENT: None

CITIZEN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT
DISCUSSION

Mayor Reid asked for recommendations from Council.

AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3-Year Terms)

James Donahoe - Long-term Tenant
Darrin Murphy, Pilot – Corporate Tenant

Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin made a motion to close the nominations. Jennifer Stepp seconded the motion and Council approved it unanimously.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD (3-Year Terms)

Vernon Perry
Michael R. Dean

Councilman Gallagher nominated Porter McAteer. Councilwoman Stepp nominated Bobby Long. Councilwoman Stepp nominated Michael Dean. Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin moved to close the nominations

GASTONIA COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 16, 2020

Mayor Reid called for a vote of those in favor of Michael Dean remaining? Council approved it unanimously.

Mayor Reid asked for those in favor of Bobby Long. The vote was 5-1 with Councilman Gallagher voting nay.

Mayor Reid asked for those favor of Porter McAteer. The vote was 1 with Councilman Gallagher voting yes.

Mr. Smith stated Mr. Dean and Mr. Long are confirmed

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD (2-Year Terms)

Dr. Pierre Crawford – Ward 1

Albert Moss – Ward II

Reese Barnett – Ward IV

Daniel Caudill – At Large Seat (Mayoral Appointment)

Mayor Reid opened the floor for nominations.

Councilman Kellogg moved to nominate Dr. Crawford.

Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin moved to nominate Albert Moss.

Councilman Odom moved to nominate Cassandra Byrd to replace Reese Barnett.

Mayor Reid moved for Daniel Caudill to remain in the At Large Seat.

Councilman Gallagher moved to close the nominations. Councilman Odom seconded the motion and Council approved it unanimously.

Mayor Reid called for a vote for Dr. Crawford. Council approved it unanimously.

Mayor Reid called for a vote for Albert Moss. Council approved it unanimously.

Mayor Reid called for a vote for Cassandra Byrd. Council approved it unanimously.

Mayor Reid called for a vote for Daniel Caudill. Council approved it unanimously.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (3-Year Terms)

Clark Simon

William E. Blackwelder, Jr.

Jerrold Tucker

GASTONIA COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 16, 2020

Mayor Reid called for a vote for Clark Simon. Councilwoman Stepp stated she wanted to nominate Jerrold Tucker to be reappointed. Councilwoman Stepp nominated James “Jamey” Henson in Clark Simon’s seat and Camille Fox for William Blackwelder Jr.’s position. Councilwoman Stepp nominated Andy Edelman for Chairman.

Councilman Gallagher made a motion to close the nominations. Councilwoman Stepp seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to close and approve the nominations.

GASTONIA PLANNING COMMISSION (3-Year Terms)

Rodney Armstrong – Ward V

David Wilson – Ward VI

Kristie Ferguson – At Large

Mayor Reid opened the floor for nominations. Councilwoman Stepp stated she would like to reappoint Rodney Armstrong to the position. Councilwoman Barber stated she would like to leave David Wilson in his position. Mayor Reid stated since he had not received any other nominations to serve on this committee, he is happy to have Kristie Ferguson remain on the Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin moved to close the nominations. Councilwoman Stepp seconded the motion and Council approved it unanimously. Council voted unanimously to approve the nominations.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION (3-Year Terms)

Will McDonald – Ward II

Scott Attaway – Ward V

VACANT – At Large #2

VACANT – At Large #3

VACANT – Youth Member (1 school year term)

Mayor Reid opened the floor for nominations. Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin re-nominated Will McDonald for Ward II. Councilwoman Stepp stated Scott Attaway has moved from Ward V and she nominated William Torro for Ward V.

Mr. Smith stated there have been discussions to remove the second youth member appointment and that would need to be voted on during Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin asked if anyone had any suggestions. Councilwoman Barber stated Finland Fair does a lot of volunteer work and he expressed an interest and she would like to see him nominated. Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin stated that that he would like to see Carrie Campbell. Mr. Smith noted that we currently do not have a student selected. Mayor Reid stated we should look at the students on the Mayor Youth Council, possibly looking at a senior each year since it is only a one-year term and we could look at making this selection in August. Mr. Smith suggested that we eliminate them as a voting member and make them floating ad hoc position and since there is

GASTONIA COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 16, 2020

only one meeting a quarter they could attend but as a non-voting member. Mayor Reid suggested a senior because they generally can drive to attend the meeting, they are interested in recreation and it is only a one-year term and it can be put on their resume. Councilwoman Stepp asked if it is a non-voting number. Mr. Smith stated he would get the ordinance amendment ready for when Council is ready to make the appointment.

Mayor Reid stated that William Torro would be replacing Scott Attaway; Finland Fair At Large 2 and Carrie Campbell At Large 3 and Will McDonald will continue to serve. Councilman Gallagher made a motion to close and approve by affirmation. Council voted unanimously to approve the nominations.

STORMWATER ADVISORY PANEL (2-Year Terms)

VACANCY (Chad McGowan) – Ward V (term expires 6/30/2021)

VACANCY (Danielle Terry) – Ward VI (term expires 6/30/2021)

Mayor Reid opened the floor for nominations. Councilwoman Stepp stated Chad McGowan violated the attendance policy and was removed. Councilwoman Stepp nominated Clark Simon for that position. Councilwoman Barber stated that Danielle Terry no longer lives in Ward VI. Councilwoman Barber asked if she could leave open Danielle Terry's position until she could research further for an appointment.

Councilwoman Stepp made a motion to close the nominations and appoint Clark Simon. Councilman Gallagher seconded the motion and Council approved it unanimously.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (3-Year Terms)

Melanie Stines Blankenship – Regular Member

Michael Dickson – Alternate Member

VACANT – Alternate Member

Mayor Reid opened the floor for nominations. Councilman Gallagher nominated Shaun Jones to take over for Melanie Blankenship. Councilwoman Stepp nominated William Blackwelder for the vacant Alternate Member. Mayor Pro Tem Kirlin nominated Michael Dickson and made a motion to close the nominations. Councilman Gallagher seconded the motion and Council approved it unanimously.

Mayor Reid reappointed for Bill Sudyk for his mayoral appointment to the Gastonia Housing Authority.

Mayor Reid stated there would be a formal vote on all of these nominations at the regular Council meeting later tonight.

GASTONIA COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 16, 2020

Mayor Reid stated that there have been some requests about painting Black Lives Matter on the street. Mayor Reid stated he received a proposal from an individual wanting to paint a mural on the basketball court in the Highland Community. Mayor Reid stated the court at the Erwin Complex is currently undergoing some renovations and was going to be painted and stripped anyway, and Mayor Reid stated he thinks this is a great opportunity to express Black Lives Matter at the center court and it would be done by locally vetted artists and they are offering to do it at no cost to the city as far as the labor and purchasing the paint and they also want to get the local youth involved. Mayor Reid stated with Highland being the historic African-American neighborhood in the city, it would be a great place to gather to exemplify the Black Lives Matter logo and also to take pictures as a history making event there in this community. Mayor Reid stated the Highland Festival could be the Launchpad showing that we are being proactive versus being reactive in Gastonia. Mayor Reid noted that they did not ask for anything but if they are going to paint it, he thinks it would be a good gesture from the city to offer to pay for the paint if they are going to do the labor even though they said they would do it at no expense to the city. Mayor Reid stated he personally thinks it is a great gesture and he noted that he is very concerned about where this is going in the city and across the state and he feels it would be good for Gastonia to do this.

Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Peoples shared information on the Municipal Operations Center space needs assessment noting this is for information only.

(Reference as contained in Exhibit Book 8 to Minute Book 109 at Page 30).

Mayor Reid declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor Walker E. Reid, III

L. Ashley Smith, City Attorney

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk

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