

Kinston City Council



MINUTES January 17, 2023

Minutes

Kinston City Council
City Hall · 207 East King Street
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Work Session at 5:30 pm · Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm

This meeting will be held in person and published electronically at

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Available for viewing on the local government channels 2 and 102

Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Hardy called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

If a Councilmember wishes to revise the agenda, the Motion to add or delete an item will be entertained before the Adoption of the Agenda.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], the agenda was adopted.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Informational Update – Fleet Committee 2021-2023----- Damien Locklear

Damien Locklear, Fire and Rescue Chief related that the smoke alarm program of over four years has installed over 2,000 alarms. Chief Locklear started his presentation by noting that recently, in partnering with Lowe’s Home Improvement, the American Red Cross, and Kinston Teens we can do that again with no cost to the citizens. He shared they were just informed that they have just received 1,000 smoke alarms that will be installed at no cost. The provider of these alarms wishes to remain anonymous to the public but is one of the partners previously named because they cannot provide that to every department.

Chief Locklear recognized three of the committee members of the Fleet Committee as Captain Lee, Battalion Chief Hobbs, and Battalion Deputy Chief Chad Jackson. Chief Locklear stated that the purpose of this committee is to come together to work toward a plan that can be utilized moving forward for the City. This committee looked at different vendors and manufacturers, what our department fleet looked like as far as years of age, and the cost up to this point for fleet maintenance).

Captain Lee, Committee Leader discussed that the numbers that would be given tonight are outdated due to being revised every fiscal year. Captain Lee stated they looked at vendors, our fleet, and the rising repairs of the department. They were asked to look at what the National Fire Protection Association recommends but to consider all factors. The process was not to build a spec for purchase but to research and acquire data and make a recommendation to provide a fleet rotation. Vendors were asked to present the options that they offered. He discussed the current fleet; Frontline (Engine 11 – 2017, Truck 1 – 2019, Engine 22, and

Engine 33 – 2010); Reserve Fleet (Engine 12 and 23 – 1993, Truck 2 – 2000, and Truck 3 – 2005). The NFPA says that any apparatus over 25 years of age, should be retired out of service, and says that the average lifespan of a fire engine or ladder truck is around 12-15 years. The first six years are sent as a frontline vehicle, before moving to the reserve fleet. He explained that the trucks are used for emergency, and non-emergency instances, fire alarms, wrecks, EMS calls, training (new drivers) hydrants, pre-plans (new buildings), and physical fitness. Captain Lee also discussed the Fleet Maintenance charges and unit repair costs. Captain Lee shared that maintaining some reserve units in the fleet is vital. They are used for training (basic training, drivers, officer, and Hazmat). During emergencies, ISO requires reserve units for each frontline apparatus. He discussed the different vehicles and the needed repairs and shared the number of days each was out of service.

Captain Lee stated they asked Jimmy Parker, Lead Mechanic, for the City of Kinston what they needed to look at for the trucks. He stated they should look at the engine, transmission, chassis, and wiring when evaluating their trucks. For their evaluation criteria, they looked at the electrical wiring, pump type and size, warranties, factory operating time, availability of parts, offered safety features, body frame structure, engine manufacturer, available mechanics, body mounting system, and the capabilities of the manufacturer to deliver what is wanted. He discussed proprietorship (not allowing other manufacturers to copy) and shared that some of the engines were down due to proprietorship. He noted that going with someone without a proprietorship means lower costs and less wait time. They also looked at safety parts, electric, and hybrid vehicles. The cost of an electric truck starts at \$1.9 million and depending on the number of calls they will need to be charged in between calls. Hybrids have an engine that can run the truck until it can be charged. It can run for two hours before the backup engine has to kick in. At full running capacity, it can for run 2.5 hours and the average structure fire lasts two to three hours. The batteries are recommended to be replaced every 7 to 10 years for \$250,000 each time and there is a lack of service technicians in our area.

Captain Lee gave the Fleet Committee recommendations and shared that due to the age of the fleet. with budget approval, to replace the 30-year-old units (Engines 12 & 23 shortly with consideration of the current lead times averaging 1 to 2 years. At this time Engines 22 & 33 are to be reassigned to the reserve status to lengthen their serviceable time frame. Also, consider a seven-year rotation that exceeds NFPA recommendations by one year. After the replacement of the current 30-year-old units, this will provide a strategically planned rotation for frontline engine companies rotating the oldest to reserve. Each time the reserves deadlines from emergency use, the committee recommends rotating and maintaining one of these for training, and only to further reduce maintenance on the emergency fleet units. ISO considerations include maintaining one reserve for each frontline unit.

Chief Locklear shared that they were not coming tonight with a request to purchase, this is to solely provide a plan for the department and what the fleet looks like. He discussed what the market looks like for lead time for products, inflation, and how hard-to-find parts have been

the reason for some of the lengthy downtime. This plan is something that can be looked at and considered moving forward. Lead time for products has been extended tremendously. He commended the committee for the work they have put in and added that this plan shows what is best for the city.

Councilmember Swinson asked if Engines 12 & 23 parts were hard to find and Chief Locklear answered that it is getting more difficult to find those parts. Mr. Swinson asked how the age of the trucks affects our ISO rating, if there is a possibility of leasing fire engines, and asked if there are other companies that make fire engines without the cost being so expensive. Chief Locklear said that the ISO rating scoring will be decreased if we do not have adequate units available. He said regarding other manufacturers, there are others out there. Regarding the lease agreements, that is discussed in the PowerPoint presentation that will be sent to the Council. Chief Locklear stated there are only a couple of departments that have put electric vehicles in service, and they are LA County and Charlotte. Mr. Swinson asked with the size of our municipality what the ideal rotation of turnaround for vehicles was. Chief Locklear stated that what we have is adequate. He shared that moving forward and with growth, he would like to see a vehicle's water supply with a minimum of 750 gallons, safety features, and consistency in how the unit is set up.

Councilmember Aiken asked if the smoke detectors were combined with carbon monoxide testers. He also asked what the requirements were for rental property. Chief Locklear stated he would like to have those Kidde brand alarms with a 10-year lifespan. He stated that for rental property, it fell on the landlord to provide the safety device for their tenants.

Councilmember Aiken asked if the ladder trunk purchase was cash or over time. Ms. Goodson said that the trucks we have now were purchased for 20 years of payments.

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager referred to Mr. Swinson's question regarding the seven-year rotation that she heard throughout the presentation and asked if that was for a specific type of vehicle. Chief Locklear stated that was specific to the engine company.

Councilmember Aiken inquired about the large fire engines responding when there is an emergency call and why not the small trucks arriving first. Chief Locklear said that there are ISO regulations and that the only way to consider sending out a smaller truck requires additional personnel and putting that unit in service.

Councilmember Swinson asked about the City's population declining was it necessary to have three stations. Chief Locklear stated he did not encourage reducing our protection and thought that it was adequate. Mr. Swinson clarified that having purchased vehicles recently with our tax base declining he wanted everyone to know that this affects our ISO rating. This was what was in the best interest of our citizens. The ISO ratings help with corporate businesses as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy thanked Chief Locklear for his presentation and commended him for being proactive and approaching this for the safety of our city. He also thanked Mr. Lee and the other staff members present tonight.

2. Consider Acceptance of Award of the ESFRLRLP22 Funds and Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to Execute All Necessary Documents----- Elizabeth Blount

Elizabeth Blount, Planning Director shared that the City was notified in April about money set aside for a loan program. The amount was \$162,000 from the NC Housing Finance Agency. The purpose of the program is to help with the deteriorated homes for those that have income-qualified households and to get those things brought up to code. Ms. Blount said the criteria are that the house must be located within the city of Kinston or Lenoir Couty, must be owner-occupied, has to be inhabited full-time by a person who is older, disabled, or a veteran, or have a child under the age of six where there is lead present. The home requires at least \$5,000 worth of repair but cannot exceed \$40,000. She shared that the annual household income cannot exceed 80% of the area median income. Those applications will be available on January 20th, the deadline for submittal is March 17, 2023, by 5:00 pm. The units will be selected by March 9th. Staff and the consultant for this project have decided that they will have an information session to answer questions that will be held on January 27th in the Council Chambers. There will be flyers passed out to the senior centers, the Council on Aging, and some churches located in the area that may have deteriorated homes. Ms. Blount asked the Council to accept the award and give the City Manager the authority to execute all necessary documents.

Councilmember Suggs asked what the time was for the information session and Ms. Blount said she was looking at 2:00 pm if the Council Chambers were available.

Councilmember Solomon asked if this could be run through the media outlets. Ms. Blount stated it will be on the website, our social media, and channel 2. Ms. Barwick stated that they will try to do it live.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy thanked Ms. Blount and asked those listening to pass the word.

3. Consider Approving the Placement of a Historical Marker on E. Caswell Street Near the Lenoir County Office Building Assuming there are No Conflicts with Underground Utilities----- Councilmember Sammy Aiken

Councilmember Aiken shared that the NC Civil Rights Trail has a marker program and Kinston’s Standard Drug Store has been selected for the program. Mr. Aiken introduced Ms. Tina Bryant and Ms. Geraldnye Barbour from the African American Heritage Commission of Kinston and Lenoir County.

Ms. Barbour shared activities of the African American Heritage Commission of Kinston and Lenoir County that reflect the growth and relationships among our residents. The NC African American Heritage Commission states that it works “to achieve the mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting NC’s African American history, arts, and culture for all people.” For generations, people in North Carolina have used spaces and places to organize, strategize, and protest to advance the civil rights of people of color; especially African Americans. Beginning in the 1950s young people from Raleigh to Durham, from Elizabeth City to Greensboro were activated to protest racial injustice. Every day, people from Rocky Mount to Robeson and Halifax counties resisted intimidation. To honor this determination, to eliminate inequality, the North Carolina Heritage Commission has joined with communities across the state to physically mark sites critical to the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina. Between 2021 and 2023 the Commission will place 50 markers in counties across the state highlighting and acknowledging tireless civil rights efforts that have taken place. The undertaking is supported by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and presented by NC African American Heritage Commission in partnership with the NC Office of Archives and History and Visit North Carolina. One marker was placed in Kinston in November 2021 and was awarded because of the Adkin High School Walkout (1951), which resulted in the Board of Education making needed educational improvements. The marker stands at the corner of Washington Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and was obtained by the Adkin High School Alumni and Friends Organization. Ms. Barbour invited everyone to the placement of a second marker from the NC African American Heritage Commission. She said while older college students were driving the Civil Rights Movement across the state and nation, in Kinston teenagers took up the cause. The NAACP Youth Council was founded in 1943 and the NAACP chapter was organized in 1956 with George Marks as president. In 1960, Simeon White, a senior at Adkin High School was the Kinston chapter president and Ms. Alice Hannibal was their advisor. Mrs. Hannibal was one of two devoted women who guided the NAACP Youth Council and led Kinston’s civil rights movement. The other was Mrs. Annie Whitehead. Mrs. Whitehead and her husband moved to Kinston in 1954 and disturbed by poor conditions for African Americans in Kinston, she “set out on a mission to provide change.” Mrs. Whitehead and Mrs. Hannibal in 1956, as the latter was planning her city council campaign helped the candidates’ efforts by coaching potential African American voters to pass the voting tests (writing their names and reciting parts of the constitution). After she lost her city council seat, Mrs. Hannibal ran for county commissioner. Mrs. Whitehead helped to found the Volunteer Housewives Association that worked to forge the way for equality by promoting education, fighting poverty, and helping to register 3,000 new voters. The group’s voter education program, which included volunteers to help escort applicants through the process at the courthouse, became a model used statewide. The group grew into the Concerned Citizens of Kinston. Another of the best-known local action of integrations of the 1960s was the success of getting the management of 10 drug stores to abolish their segregated counter policies. Thanks to Rev. Rosevelt Whitehead, son of Mrs. Annie Whitehead for spearheading the drive to have a visual reminder of Kinston’s participation in the civil rights movement placed on a main thoroughfare. Ms. Barbour noted that the chairman of the oral history project of the

African American Heritage Commission of Kinston of Lenoir County, Ms. Clemetine Bryant was instrumental in the erection of this marker, and Sammy Aiken, City Councilmember is chairperson of the local AAHC. She asked everyone to mark their calendars for the unveiling on February 4th at 1:00 pm. Mr. Aiken added that it would be at the corner of Queen and Caswell.

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager pointed out that at this point the locates for the area they would like have not been completed by 811 and asked the Council to approve it pending the ability to put it there. Initially, the group tried the other side of the street and there were locates that prohibited that side; they had to relocate it.

4. Informational Update of Fairfield Playground Community Install----- Corey Povar

Corey Povar, Parks and Recreation Director extended an invitation to the community install for Fairfield on Saturday, January 28th at 9:00 am. The pickleball group that participates in pickleball at Fairfield, the F-3 group that utilizes the park for men’s exercise and fellowship, as well as the local rotary club. The parks crew will begin the installation on Thursday prior and there will be a site supervisor (Bill Ellis) from the playground company to guide the installation.

Mr. Povar announced that the Freedom Classic is coming up on February 24 – 26 at Grainger Stadium. The teams are Air Force and Navy.

RECESS UNTIL 7:00 REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy recessed the meeting at 6:31.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Hardy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Councilmember Felicia Solomon delivered the prayer which was followed by everyone reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Councilmembers’ Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Sammy Aiken, Felicia Solomon, Chris J. Suggs, Robert Swinson, and Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Hardy.

Present Also: Rhonda Barwick, City Manager and Tim Carraway, Attorney.

Absent: Mayor Don Hardy.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens must sign in before the start of the meeting if they wish to address the City Council.
 Citizens should state their name and address before beginning their comments and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes.
 Citizens seeking assistance or asking questions will be contacted by a member of the Governing Body or by appropriate City Staff.

There were no citizen comments.

Adoption of the Agenda

If a Councilmember wishes to revise the agenda, the motion to add or delete an item will be entertained before the Adoption of the Agenda.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], the agenda was adopted.

MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 ----- Debra Thompson

Councilmember Solomon made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], the minutes for January 3, 2023, were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider Acceptance of Award of the ESFRLRLP22 Funds and Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to Execute All Necessary Documents ----- Elizabeth Blount**
- 2. Consider Approving the Placement of a Historical Marker on E. Caswell Street Near the Lenoir County Office Building Assuming there are No Conflicts with Underground Utilities ----- Councilmember Sammy Aiken**

Councilmember Solomon made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson, and upon a unanimous vote of [5-0], items 1 and 2 with the locates pending for item 2 were approved.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- 1. “Parent Connect” Support Group Meeting to be Held on Saturday, January 21st at Neuse Regional Library ----- Hernika Cannon**

Hernika Cannon, founder of Act Now Community Development Corp., and Tah’Ron Cannon, founder of Committed to Forward, LLC shared that they are a part of the At Now Dream Team. Ms. Cannon acknowledged those in attendance that were also a part of the Dream Team: Ms. Ellison, Ms. Washington, and her dad. She shared that hearing Kinston Strong to Act Now

means standing together revealing our neighborly greatness. Act Now Community Development Corporation is a 501 (c) (3) that is innovative and strives to make a positive difference in our community with a trauma-informed approach to community building. The mission is to connect the citizens of Lenoir County to community assets while providing initiatives that will assist our community members to recognize their ability and potential to become self-supporting with the hopes of enhancing their quality of life. The philosophy is that in all situations act with integrity, honesty, and fairness. The slogan is “Action creates transformation. Now is the time to spread your wings and fly.” Ms. Cannon then gave a brief history of Act Now:

- 2013 – Articles of incorporation
- 2016-2018 – Partnerships (Kinston Promise, 21st Century Community Learning Center, Kinston Police Department’s Community Coordinator)
- 2017 – Partnered with Kinston Teens and the City of Kinston to adopt a vacant lot.
- 2018 – Partnered with Southeast Elementary School to present the Parents of Purpose workshops at their parent outreach events.
- 2019 – Signed a year lease for office space.

Ms. Cannon shared that on January 3, 2020, her mother was assaulted by a person that remains unknown (for now) while she was getting dinner. She also shared the emotions that she went through and how she arrived at a very dark place. In November of 2021 was when she realized she was in such a dark space and started her journey of forgiveness and healing. In 2022, they relaunched their efforts. They are now focusing on community building and community outreach. Act Now is anchored on four pillars which are:

1. Community Connect – community and family engagement. In speaking with 43 parents, they found that the overwhelming majority answered the question of what Kinston needs by responding that it was activities for the children.
2. Initiatives to Thrive – Economic and workforce development. This is focusing on entrepreneurial and financial literacy. Create what you wish to see. Initiatives to encourage small business, workforce development, and self-reliance. They are helping folks to discover, develop and deploy the latent talents that have been dormant. Also, ensure that they discover their passion. Ms. Cannon introduced Committed to Progressing Forward, LLC which is the resiliency reservoir for Kinston and surrounding areas.
3. Visions of Home Initiative – Housing options with levels of support. They offer four stages of housing opportunities along with levels of support. (transitional housing – 18-24 month stay; permanent supportive housing – unlimited stay; open market rental – occasional support; home ownership – optional with support as needed. Eviction prevention workshops, fair housing seminars, rental and home buyer education, and landlord outreach will be offered.

4. Transformation Initiative – Citizens becoming and being the very best version of themselves. Encourage belief in self, dream again, and achieve goals. The embrace your change curriculum was started in 2015. The objective is to assist individuals to recognize and develop their gifts and talents.

Mr. Cannon stated that last summer they started with their girls providing summer enrichment. They offered them arts and crafts, personal development, literacy, health and fitness, and field trip Fridays. There was a marked difference in the girls noticed after the summer enrichment program.

Ms. Cannon shared that their current events are Act Now partnering with Rochelle Middle School is starting a personal care pantry during the month of January. Rochelle will take items Monday-Friday from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Ms. Cannon shared a quote by Ann Douglas: “If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to support that child’s parent.” The next event will be the parent connect support group on Saturday, January 21st from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Neuse Regional Library. Ms. Cannon shared that CTPF will facilitate its first resiliency training at the DMC Meeting on Thursday, January 26th at the GATE at 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Solomon expressed that this was one of the strongest presentations that we have had from a 501 (c) (3). Not only was this a good presentation but you could tell that it is authentic, genuine, and very pure in motive. Ms. Solomon thanked the Cannons for the presentation. She asked what the length of the summer enrichment program was, and Ms. Cannon stated it was 12 weeks. After being asked if the program would be brought back this summer, Ms. Cannon said it would with partnership from other organizations. Since partnership is key for her. Ms. Solomon asked if the transition home mentioned in Pillar 3 was for those recently incarcerated and Ms. Cannon stated that was the original goal (home for females); they have not secured a home yet, but they are working on it.

Councilmember Suggs thanked the Cannons for their years of work and their early participation in the Adopt A Lot Program. He gave a special thanks for the parenting piece that they incorporated which has been something that has consistently come out of our community conversations around crime and violence.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy shared that they have his full support on anything he can do to help them.

Ms. Barwick asked Ms. Cannon to restate the information about the parent support group. Ms. Cannon stated the Parent Connect Support Interest Meeting will be Saturday, January 21st from 2:00-3:00 pm at Neuse Regional Library.

Ms. Cannon was asked for the contact information, and it is 252-268-6005, actnowcdc@gmail.com, or actnowcdc.org.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Conduct Public Hearing for 2022 Edward-Byrne Memorial/JAG Grant ---Keith Goyette

Keith Goyette, Interim Police Chief related that the presentation showed what leadership looked like and noted that they have been tremendous partners with the Police Department for several years.

Chief Goyette that this grant is shared with the Lenoir County Sheriff’s Office for \$22,000 with the City receiving \$11,000. You are given one year to utilize the grant and plan to use the funds for 12 ballistic helmets (SWAT Team), 1 SWAT phone (hostage situation), and a gas grill (community engagement). He stated they have been receiving this grant for 2018.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy opened the Public Hearing. There was no one to speak in favor of or opposition to and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:33 pm.

2. Conduct Public Hearing for BJA COPS FY22 Law Enforcement De-Escalation Grant -----Keith Goyette

Keith Goyette, Interim Police Chief shared that we are one of four agencies across America to receive this grant (Dallas, TX, Phoenix, AZ, DC Metro Police, and Kinston Police). This grant is for \$150,000 and is a two-year grant for the COPS Program (Community Oriented Policing) through the Bureau of Justice administration. Chief Goyette stated this grant will pay for community policing for de-escalation training, and bias training for the organization, and will offset overtime costs for those officers to attend this training in the next two years. Also, they will join forces with Polis Solutions which was used in October for de-escalation training. The company will have access to body camera footage, and we will use it for training purposes for the officers at least twice a year. This is no match in-kind and there is no cost to the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy opened the Public Hearing. There was no one to speak in favor of or opposition to and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:36 pm.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

1. Consider Recessing the January 17th Meeting Until Thursday, January 26th at 9:00 am in the Human Resources Training Room Located on the Second Floor of City Hall. City Council will continue their Strategic Planning Discussions -----Rhonda Barwick

Rhonda Barwick, City Manager shared that a tentative date has been scheduled for the second strategic planning meeting on Thursday, January 26at 9:00 am in the Human Resources Training Room located on the 2nd floor of City Hall and asked the Council to consider recessing tonight’s meeting until that time. Ms. Barwick gave the audience an overview of the first

meeting held in August. They identified five strategic goals and in the upcoming meeting, they plan to identify steps that can be taken into the budget process to achieve some of those goals in the coming year. She said this is a five-year plan, but each budget year we need to be moving forward. The five goals identified by the Council are 1) Prevention and Reduction of Violent Crime; 2) a Cleaner/Healthier Community; 3) Housing; 4) Transportation, and 5) Build Community Relationships. Ms. Barwick asked if, at the end of this meeting, it is recessed.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

There was no City Attorney’s report.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Swinson thanked the Brandon Ingram family for once again hosting the MLK Tournament. There was a \$10,000 donation to Kinston High School and a \$5,000 donation to United Way. There were great games all day and many players that wore the green and gold at some time throughout their history came back as coaches.

Councilmember Solomon thanked the department heads. She stated that it is an amazing feeling when members of the community sing their praises.; from leadership that has been here the longest to our newest directors. Ms. Solomon shared that some of the work that the department heads have done will it make it easy to plug in the goals and action steps when they resume as a Council for strategic planning. She asked the Council to consider conducting a six-month performance evaluation of the City Manager.

Councilmember Aiken expressed condolences to the family of Mr. Hilton Parker who was one of the last black farmers in Lenoir County.

Councilmember Suggs shared that he has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Kinston/Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce in his role as a City Council Member. He stated he is looking forward to building and strengthening the relationship between the City government and the business community. The Chamber will be going through a rebranding to brand itself as the Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce to broaden its reach to all the Lenoir County businesses. This will allow us to work with them and establish and build our relationship with Pink Hill, LaGrange, and Grifton as well. Mr. Suggs stated he also attended the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners meeting today. The City received lots of praise for the Crime Intervention Task Force held last week. There was a lot of support and feedback from the community who are interested in that and interested in continuing to work with the City on different projects. He said he hopes we can continue to be a leader in community engagement and building partnerships throughout our community.

Councilmember Solomon congratulated our former Representative Don Davis who is now representing the 1st Congressional District. His swearing-in was this evening at 6 pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy wished Mayor Hardy safe travels and noted that he is in DC tonight always working to get funds for our city.

RECESS

Mayor Pro Tem Hardy recessed the meeting until Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 9:00 am in the Human Resources Training Room located on the 2nd floor of City Hall at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Thompson, City Clerk