

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, convened for a Called Meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 12:06 p.m. in Room CH-14 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Anthony Foxx presiding. Council members present were Patrick Cannon, Warren Cooksey, Andy Dulin and Patsy Kinsey. Council-elect members present were John Autry, Claire Fallon, LaWana Mayfield, and Beth Pickering.

**ABSENT UNTIL NOTED:** Council members David Howard and James Mitchell.

**ABSENT:** Council members Michael Barnes, Jason Burgess, Nancy Carter, Edwin Peacock and Warren Turner.

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#### **ITEM NO. 1: PURPOSE**

Mayor Foxx called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He said this is what we are calling an Organizational Meeting and we've actually never done this since I've been on Council, but I wanted to start out by giving you some idea of why we are doing this. First of all, congratulations to everyone. Some of you are here newly elected, some of you are here incumbents, you are re-elected and I know all of you have worked really hard and you've got a lot of ideas, a lot of energy about things you want to get done and today starts the next phase of your pathway along the way of doing that. In the past, what has happened, and I remember when I was first elected to the Council in 2005 and Patrick you probably remember when you were first elected in 1860. What usually happens is we go through the swearing in ceremony, we have a couple council meetings and we end up going into the new year and we really don't have a chance to come back and sort of step back a little bit until our retreat. I thought because we were seeing a new Council coming in, some new blood coming on board that we ought to take some time to really just step back, introduce ourselves to each other, talk a little bit about what we want to get done individually and start the process of trying to coreless around that and also talk a little bit about how we want to get things done. It can be things as mundane as whether we want to continue with dinner meetings versus going back to lunch meetings, which have been done in the past to give us a little more time to prepare for the action part of our agenda and other mundane things like that to some general discussion about retreat ideas.

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#### **ITEM NO. II: INTRODUCTIONS**

Mayor Foxx said we will introduce ourselves, starting with the new Council members and after that I will give Curt time to introduce himself and also the staff. Claire, do you want to start, talk about where you are from, what got you into this, who talked you into.

Council-elect Claire Fallon, Council at-large. Who talked me into it? Several people talked me into it and it was just a continuum, but you know what made me really annoyed, where we voted no for something on Planning and it came to Council and it was a unanimous no and it got overturned. I couldn't understand why. Did they know what was going on and I said "wait a minute" I'm going to sit at that table so I can explain why you shouldn't overturn it, so I'm here.

#### **Councilmember Howard arrived at 12:10 p.m.**

Councilmember Dulin said I came on in 2005 with Anthony and Michael Barnes. We were the Class of 2005 and I'm still enjoying the service to the community. You will find out that those of us who are District Reps that we get all the calls, which is as it is supposed to be. We are the feet on the ground, but you make decisions for the entire City every week. It is a zeroed in District even though there are 100,000 people in your District, plus or minus, but it is a zeroed in District Representation with more global view of the City which is very interesting and you will enjoy it.

Ms. Fallon said can we send them back to you when they call us?

Mr. Dulin said yes. The best part is when they call you about the tax revaluation you can send them to the District guy on the County Commission. I've done that twice already today.

Councilmember Cannon, City Council at-large, first elected back in 1993 as District Rep for Midwest and Southwest Charlotte, District 3. Had a chance to run and deal with a lot of people in the at-large capacity. I took a stint off and in 2005 came back to run for at-large again because I felt there was some unfinished business that I thought should be carried out and taken care of. Some of still remains in progress and is actually in one of our committees right now. I look forward to working with the newly elected members of City Council, congratulations as well. I look forward to building a very strong relationship with you all, but even more so with my colleagues that I have been serving with already. I think it is very important that we work together and be as transparent as possible. I think in doing so it will allow us to move the City forward and I mean that not just in the sense of working together as Council members, but also working with City staff.

Councilmember Cooksey said I'm starting my third term on Monday. I was first elected in 2007. Prior to Council I was on the Planning Commission for 7 years, 6 years on the Convention Visitors Board of Directors. The CVB is not the CRVA and if you haven't gotten your guide to these abbreviations I'm sure there is one around somewhere. Part of the question is do you call it CMUD or do you go with CU, it is all in how you treat the Utilities Department. That will come with a learning curve as the agencies are listed. That is my background and that is what got me here. One of the things I try never to say is the phrase "my district". It is the District from which I'm elected because I am still responsible for good decisions for the whole City. Never have the myopic mindset that only what is good for District 7 is good for the whole City, what is good for the whole City is good for the whole city.

Mayor Foxx said Ms. Kinsey, who are you and why are you here?

Councilmember Kinsey said I'm Patsy Kinsey, I'm here because you told me I had to be.

Mayor Foxx said that is Patsy in a nutshell.

Mr. Cooksey said how are you conducting yourself at this meeting?

Ms. Kinsey said I have a very bad attitude, I'm in a bad mood because I didn't have the MCT

Councilmember Howard said I was born and raised in the City of Charlotte, just got elected to my second term and I'm looking forward it.

Council-elect John Autry said I've been elected to represent the constituents of District 5 and up until Monday I was a member of the Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. I was elected to my second term last year and I resigned that position Monday evening in preparation for the swearing in next Monday. We have lots of challenges on the east side and I would like to think those challenges are opportunities that just haven't been before the right private sector partner yet. We will be working on those issues and I am eager and anxious to get started and glad to be a part of this organization.

Council-elect Beth Pickering said newly elected at-large Council member. I'm thrilled to be here and I'm probably the newest of the new. I am honored, humbled and it has been an absolute pleasure to talk to the folks of this City and that has been the best part. As I've said many times, many of them are feeling a little bit left out, feeling like some of the time, attention and resources of the City have gone other places. I'm interested in being a voice for them. I have some other interests that I would like to pursue and I'm thrilled to be here and it is an honor and privilege. It is a big responsibility so this is serious business. There are a lot of things we need to accomplish, a lot of hard work to be done and I'm going to be doing a lot of learning.

Council-elect LaWana Mayfield said I am also one of the newly elected members for representing District 3. I'm looking forward to working with the current members of Council and learning from your experience sitting around this dais as well as making sure there is a level of transparency throughout the entire District that some of the constituents that I spoke with on the campaign trail didn't feel like they had. There are some concerns that I have and some issues that

I would like to focus on and I will go into more detail as I learn more because I'm not jumping out with a million and one ideas right off the bat, but I'm definitely taking into consideration what I've heard from my constituents and from those who have started e-mailing me and calling me and texting me their ideas and how they can better help direct me in this role. I'm really excited and humbled and honored to be able to represent the City of Charlotte in this capacity.

Mayor Foxx said we will have a lot of opportunities to work with each other, get to know each other, to get to know each other's working styles, but another really important part of what we have to do going forward in working with our staff. I'd like to turn this over to Curt and have you introduce yourself and also your staff.

**City Manager, Curt Walton,** said I've been City Manager since 2007 and have been a City employee since 1986. I had 16 years in the Budget Office, and almost 10 in the Manager's Office now. Charlotte is home now, but I'm from Moore County which is the great metropolis of Carthage, North Carolina, population 1,900. Congratulations for winning and thank you for what you are about to do. I'll let Stephanie continue and then we will start with the back row back there.

**City Clerk, Stephanie Kelly,** said I've been the City Clerk since December 2008. I've been with the City of Charlotte since December 2004. I came as Deputy City Clerk, having been City Clerk in the City of Shelby for 17 years. I worked with the City for 20 years, so I've been in local government for about 27 years. I'm happy to be working with the new and incumbent.

Mayor Foxx said Bob Hagemann will be City Attorney effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Senior Deputy City Attorney, Bob Hagemann,** said I look forward to working with the new folks and working with the incumbents. I've been with the City for 17 years and a stint before that with the North Carolina League of Municipalities for four years and about 4 years of private practice straight out of law school. I've been in North Carolina since 1983 and it is home. I am honored and excited about the opportunity of working with you.

Mr. Walton said we have a great staff and I think you will find that to be true and we have had for many decades. Charlotte has had great governance and great management for a long, long time. I will ask these folks to introduce themselves and talk about the functional areas primary what you are responsible for, starting with Ron Kimble.

**Deputy City Manager, Ron Kimble** said I've been here since September 2000 and I'm in my 36<sup>th</sup> year of local government. I started out in Illinois but move to North Carolina 28 years ago. I love Charlotte and I love what is going on in our community. I love the fact that I get to work for a great city, work for Curt and work in conjunction with all of you. My area is in the areas of Economic Development, hospitality and tourism. I work with Dana Fenton a lot, he has done state and federal lobbying issues and it is great to be a part of the public/private partnerships which we will develop under your leadership here in Charlotte.

**Assistant City Manager, Julie Burch** said I have been with the City for 24 ½ years. Prior to that I worked for the City of Phoenix for 12 years so Ron and I have about the same number of total years in local government. I'm originally from Kansas City, but I have considered Charlotte my home since I've been here a number of years now. I enjoy this work immensely and I look forward to working with all of you in the next two years. The areas that I most often work in are Housing and Neighborhood Development and the Environment.

**Assistant City Manager, Eric Campbell** said I have been with the City since April 2008. I came to Charlotte by way of the local government system in Virginia. I was the Deputy City Manager in Norfolk, Virginia as well as Assistant City Manager in Petersburg, Virginia. The functional areas I'm responsible for are primarily Community Safety and I also work with the Business Support Services that does our procurement function. I also support Corporate Communication and Community Relations.

**Budget & Evaluation Director, Ruffin Hall** said I share something a little bit with the four new members. I'm a bit of an incoming newbie to this situation as well, so we will have a chance to learn from each other. I currently serve as the City's Budget and Evaluation Director and I've

been with the city for 10 years. I've been with local government for about 16 years. I'm originally from Fayetteville, North Carolina. I will be serving as Assistant City Manager as of January 2<sup>nd</sup> with the very large shoes of Mr. Schumacher, which you will learn in a moment. The primary area emphasis is City Transportation Program, Engineering and Property Management and Planning and I'm looking forward to it.

**Kim Oliver, Head of the City Council Team** said we will be assisting all of the eleven Council members administratively, doing a lot of your community meetings and community events and saving you from yourself. We need you as much as you need us and it will be a joy to work with all of you. I come to you by way of San Diego, California. I've been here for 4 years. I went to UNC Chapel Hill so that doesn't necessarily make me a newbie for the state. I've also babbled in Homeless Services, Transportation, Utilities and Airport Operations so I've kind of been around the block and working in various departments.

**Peggy Huffman,** said I am with Mayor Foxx's Office, currently working as the scheduling assistant there. I came to the City of Charlotte to work with the Mayor's Office and Finance Secretary and things have changed a little bit. I've been here about 4 years and I love Charlotte. I love the weather. I come from up-state New York so now it is cold up there and I'm enjoying the warmer weather down here. I love my job and look forward to trying to help you.

**Tracy Montross, Assistant to the Mayor,** said been on the job 6 months and I came by way of Senator Max Baucus' office in Washington, D.C. Received my Masters in Public Administration from UNC-Charlotte.

**Assistant City Manager, Jim Schumacher** said I am Assistant City Manager for another 31 days. I think in the old timers category I win the prize. I've worked here all of or part of five different decades. I came to work in the 70's as an Engineer. Most of my background with the City was in the Engineering Department, but the last 4 ½ years in the City Manager's Office. When I came 30+ years ago I really didn't know I was going to make a career out of the City, but I found it to be a wonderful and very professionally driven organization to work in. I think you will find that the staff fits that bill. It is a great organization and a great city to be in.

**Jeff Stovall, City's Chief Information Officer** said I'm responsible for technology support across all of our departments. I've been with the City since May of 2008, my first work in government. Prior to that I was with Sprint Nextel in Kansas City approximately 8 years in their IT Department before coming to Charlotte. Charlotte is my home now. My wife is from North Carolina. I'm originally from Richmond, Virginia so it is good to be back in North Carolina again. If you have any questions that come up about technology, I'm the person to ask.

**Kim McMillan, Corporate Communications and Marketing** said I have over 24 years experience in Corporate and non-profit Public Relations but I have so enjoyed my almost 5 years in the public sector and found the City of Charlotte to be one of the most rewarding jobs I've ever had. I look forward to working with all of you. I've been in Charlotte since 1991.

**Dana Fenton, Intergovernmental Relations Manager** said I've worked with Ron on Federal and State lobbying efforts. I've been with the City since April 2010. Before that I was with Ridgeway County in Virginia in the same capacity. Before that in Johnson County Kansas doing that and also working in the Budget office there. I also worked with the City in that area as well. I will say that of the four counties I have worked for in the last 18 years, all four have AAA credit ratings, but this is clearly the best organization I have ever worked for. I originally hailed from Northern Virginia in Prince William County, the place where I worked for the last 10 years.

**Carol Jennings, Special Assistant to the City Manager** said my big project this year is to work on the DNC. I'm the liaison for the DNC.

**Steve Harrison,** comments inaudible

**Brad, News 14 Reporter** said I grew up in Charlotte, graduated from Independence High School, North Carolina graduate and been covering the City for three years. You will be seeing a lot of me as Steve and I cover you all a lot.

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### **GOALS FOR 2011-2013**

Mayor Foxx said we have very few chances to spend time talking about what we individually want to do because the system of government we have is one in which the Council speaks with its collective voice. I thought that what we would do for just a few minutes is go around the table and say what you want to get done. Two years from now you will look back, you will have spent two years of your life spending most of your Mondays on City business and many of your hours on committees and various other things. What would you like to look back and say you got done.

Ms. Fallon said Transportation, which is my baby. Assigned to a Committee of 21 and we got I-485. We pushed and we got it. The Governor announced last night that the other part is going to be starting in 10 days. Economics – we've got to get a more diversified economy in here because I'm worried about Bank of America. I think we need internship, I think we need apprenticeship, I think we need to get into the people that come here with this message and train on the floor.

Mr. Dulin said I want to make sure that we as a group, as we start to jell together, continue to do the things that we do well which is a lot of stuff. Keep tweaking the things that we don't do well. For instance the work we did the other night on the curfew laws. I think that is probably a first tweak of that deal. We will step back and see how it works for a year or so, but that is a pretty good example of something that we've done. We've tweaked the limousine and taxi industry here and we might end up going back to that, but continue doing the things that we do well and keep working on making better the things that we need to make better. I think all of that can be solidified and started with a strong retreat in February. Whoever the Retreat Committee is, they buckle down and get that thing really done well and it is all staff that does all the work. We come up with the ideas or our constituents come up with the ideas and then they do the work so if we come up with a strong retreat it is the staff that will help to produce that.

Mr. Cannon said I think I'd like to see us be really dedicated to trying to create a real balance in this community. Many of you have heard me talk about balance and I think I get that from when District 3 was so out of balance and now we see what is going on in the east side and we see what is happening in the northern tiers. That can be something across the board because we end up having to come up with a strategy for 3, but being able to come up with some strategy that works, where we can have some achievable goals because even though it might be pie in the sky ask and I realize the monetary support may or may not be there. I would like to see us look at more attracting some international companies to the City of Charlotte. We did that yesterday and we need to do more of that. I'd like to see what we can do to incentivize or find ways to attract international business both blue and white collar. The second thing is making sure we are doing all we can to be about public safety. The committee has worked very hard I know by way of Council's ask in terms of goal setting and how we get there, but we want to make sure we strive with that and I'd like to see us concentrate on a couple of things. One, bring in more awareness of what is happening with domestic homicides as it relates to balance that occurs. Two, we talk about our youth, but we have a Cadet Program that was introduced a long time ago and I would like to see us go back and take a look at that program. I know the Chief has already begun to take a look at it to see how we can be more diversified and go in after more schools like West Charlotte and others that might be able to have youth from those areas take a stronger look at it. Community Safety, Economic Development are my two really core areas.

Mayor Foxx said when you talk about balance and economic growth, I got the international piece, but in terms of the east and north, is that making sure that economic vitality extends into all parts of the city. Is that what you are talking about?

Mr. Cannon said yes, that is part of it and also working more with the private sector. When we think about what is happening in North Charlotte, particularly right there at Sugar Creek and North Tryon. We've had a hard time trying to get the private sector there to work with us to bring about what could be a better looking site over there. They are fighting the same things that Districts 2, 3 and 5 are going through and that is image. If we could do something about image because folks over there, they don't understand all that is happening on the underground and they

don't care about what is happening underground with water and sewer. They care about what is happening that is out of ground and in as much as we can work with folks over there to help bring about some balance as it relates to just that, that will do with a tremendous amount of work, but yes, we do need to extend opportunities over there where we can find a piece of dirt. We concentrate pretty heavily in the western portion of the city, largely in part because that was the big I. That was industrial city so you had to go where land may be available, but where else are the opportunities in the north and where else are they in the east that we take a look at and extend that.

Mr. Cooksey said I try to stick to the core functions, those which I define the things the City does that only the City does and if we don't do them and we don't do them well, nobody else will. Police, Fire, Utilities, Garbage Collection. If we are not doing those fundamental things of a City, nobody else picks up. We had some shared responsibilities with other areas of government, we funnel a lot of dollars in for housing through the federal government for example, but the feds have their ways of working that through when there are other agencies as well, but only things that only we do, we always have to keep our eye on. Those are the things that affect everyone of our citizens. Not everyone is affected by some of the things we do, but everyone is affected when we have good public safety and that is Police and Fire. Everyone is affected by the Utility Department, by garbage collection and by just general sanitation. That is what I try to focus on and I want to keep that governmental effort affordable. I think it is worth remembering that a lot of people in this city had their tax bills go up this year even though the City's rate went down. We kept a revenue neutral rate and I'm very proud of that and very happy that we did so, but that doesn't change the fact that a lot of people's tax bill still went up. That is something that several folks encountered here. I can talk as academically as I want about how important it is that our rate stays revenue neutral, but if somebody's tax bill still went up I'm just speaking jibberage. That is in reality got to be addressed in terms of what people's perception and reality of the cost of the services that we provide. Another thing that comes to mind I think we could improve the way we structure and develop and implement our Focus Area Plans. I think that over the years they've gotten a bit scattered in terms of what they are used for, what their intent is, how they can be read. If you look through those things there are some that have very specific measurements that apply to staff, there are some things that are just general policy directions that are really up to Council and we can't hold Curt accountable for whether or not Council adopts a policy on X, but sometimes it is adopting that policy is in the Focus Area Plan and on the other hand we can hold, for instance the Public Safety Plan talks about how quickly the Fire Department responds to requests and how often they do inspections and that sort of thing. I think there is a better way we could communicate as a Council what our expectations are of ourselves and what our expectations are of the staff as a whole.

Mr. Kinsey said I will try my dead level best to not be a pain in the neck to staff. I will keep my mouth shut and my ears open and I agree with Warren.

Mr. Howard said I agree with everything everyone has said already. I think one of the things we said out of a couple of retreats that I actually participated as a Councilmember, we use some words like risk, creativity and vision and I want to see us continue to actualize that in everything that we do. One of the things that I have a huge respect for is the work that leaders did before we got here. The potential vision to think that we could have an NBA Team, an NFL Team and it takes a vision to make the Hall of Fame work. A lot of it happened because we took risk, we were intentional, we were creative and we had vision. I want those words to be kind of hallmark so when I look back on two years and say why we continued the tradition of doing that and we left the City better when we left. That is the way I think we deal with the growth and the transition and all these other diversified things. People will come in if they see us doing those, taking some risk, show some creativity and having some vision about the future.

**Councilmember Mitchell arrived at 12:42 p.m.**

Mr. Autry said on the east side we are challenged with economic vitality and lack of diversity in that economics. The middle class neighborhoods that are still on the east side have weathered the financial storm pretty well, but we suffer from lack of a lot of the resources in the commercial spectrum that have to do with the demise and the closing down of Eastland Mall. The solution of what we do with those 90 acres over there is going to have a huge impact in my district and to my constituents. In two years I would like for us to be able to say this is our

solution, this is where this going and to see some shovels in the ground over there. That is going to be vital to that part of the City. If we have an economic energized city then that should go everywhere. We suffer from a perception issue over there that I'm going to be working on diligently to improve and I hope that we can take back to those citizens over there energy ideas, showing them some risk, some intentional creativity vision, to borrow Mr. Howard's list. That is going to be real important for us. We want to see sustainable communities, communities that people can live their entire lives in where there is retail services available to them, where you can walk in your community, where you can know your neighbors and be able to exploit the diversity that we have over there.

Ms. Pickering said I love David's word vision. I think that is important, keeping the big picture in mind and economic vitality. That is what I talk most about in what I call struggling areas, west side, east side. I would love to be part of a vision and getting some kind of business in there whether it is internal, external, some kind of vitality after two years, something new in there happening. I would be thrilled to see that. That is what I would like to work on, first and foremost and that is what I campaigned on. Number two, recycling. I would like to put the focus back on recycling. We've done pretty well and the last I saw was about a 50% rate for single family homes. Obviously, a lot of room for improvement there, but we did better than expected. However, my understanding is that in our apartment complexes, not a lot of recycling is happening and that is a lot of material going into the landfill that shouldn't be so I would love to dive into that. Street lights happens to be a hot issue these days. I'm most concerned with the fact that we have so many that are out. We've heard the number of 10%, 8,000 at any given time. That is not acceptable and we've got to work on that. We shouldn't have to rely on citizens notifying the City that a street light is out. I've had three right in my little biddy neighborhood out so I would like to dive into that. We can fix that. I know that is a cost issue obviously, but let's look at that. It goes to safety so we got to do it. Last but not least, I have a little signage issue about the streets that crossover the Belk Freeway into uptown Charlotte. I would like to put street names on there. I've seen this in other cities and I want to know what street that is that is crossing over. Is it Tryon, is it Caldwell, what is it the light rail comes over? I think we should have some nice lettering so just my pet peeve and I have been wanting that since I came here five years ago.

Mr. Howard said see Andy, you are not by yourself.

Mr. Dulin said I've moved from canker works to street lights.

Mayor Foxx said sandwiched between the Pearl Street Bridge.

Ms. Mayfield said there's a couple things, the biggest issue that I really want to look at falls into economic development. We already know and we've already received the USDA report regarding the food deserts that we have in the area. That is something that I going to be a champion around this dais as far as identifying healthier food choices in the form of market/grocery stores that we need, especially when you look at areas where we have youth, new born to 17 that do not have access to healthy food choices as well as our seniors that are not in convenient locations and they do not have private transportation. What is out current transportation looking like looking at that Wilkinson Boulevard Corridor. We had that outside study done years ago where they saw all the possibilities, but going back to what Mr. Cannon mention, branding. There does need to be rebranding because a lot of people, even on the ground, do not recognize the extent of District 3. Steele Creek is offering some and they have seen a lot of growth, a lot of development, but you haven't seen that development coming closer to town or going back behind the Airport where there is a lot of housing. The old Park N Shop on Wilkinson Boulevard was at one time a convenient place and there is a lot of senior housing that is right behind that location going out Moore's Chapel. We have the White Water Facility, which is great, but we haven't seen development around that area. For me looking at it realistically, we have two years to really try to achieve a win for not only my community, but also to let them know that I not only heard their concerns, but that I was making sure their voices were heard around this dais. That economic development piece, looking at the spaces we already have, how we can retrofit. I've already had some meetings in the community and some meetings with developers in the area looking at potential projects that are coming down the pike. I know I also need to do a lot more research with the help of staff as staff is the expert on a lot of this. When we are looking at our Tree Ordinance I am pro trees, but I also recognize that there is a

balance in there, so trying to be as aware and educated as possible and not necessarily create any big bright ideas. There is a lot of work that has been done prior to me coming this position and I want to see what is already in the works and how we can move that forward or how we could tweak it so there is a direct benefit for not only the constituents of District 3, but the entire City because everyone is going to be affected by us having the Airport in this District 3. When you are coming into uptown, the fact that you are anywhere from 4 to 12 minutes from uptown, easy access to our highways, there is a lot of really good potential for the area and I'm going to be looking at what are the tangibles so that we can have a clear win that is supported around this dais.

Mayor Foxx said a couple things issue wise, it is not that much of a secret that I would like to see us enter into discussions about consolidation. What I will try to do very early is put an action item on the agenda to get that issue teed up for study. Now study is study and it doesn't mean that you are supporting an action and we can't study it by ourselves. The County would have to also take a step, but I think we are in a revenue constrained environment, we are facing lots of challenges, there are people at kitchen tables who are having to do more with less. I want to applaud the staff for doing some really innovative things to help us do more with less. Recycling, Beth you mentioned recycling and staff really did a great job of coming up with a way to do more recycling, but to do it with fewer resources and they are saving us \$40 million over ten years. I think you will find that when it comes to doing the running of the business, we've got the best staff on the planet in terms of getting the things done that citizens expect. I agree with you Warren that we got to keep focus on those things, but I also think that we've got to, as a group, if the citizens and the community put us in these positions surely they didn't expect two years from now for things to just end up the way they were before. What is going to be different in those two years because the 12 of us were sitting the dais. I would love to have the conversation and if we are not able to get any headway on full consolidation, based on community input then I would like us to get to the functional areas so that we can really help this community move forward. Permitting is one of the areas where I think there is a huge opportunity to send a signal to the business community that Charlotte is even more open for business, but that is a thorny issue because there is all kinds of ... and if it was easy it would have been done already, so I get that, but I think that part of our challenge is to tackle things that are hard. Secondly, regionalism is a topic that I think has come up for a lot of you. What is happening at the federal level is in the next fiscal year it is all but certain that there is going to be less money for everything and that includes transportation. We've done quite well and I think if we cross our fingers and click our heels we will have some money for the Blue Line Extension next year which would be absolutely fantastic, but going forward that money is going to be harder to get. I think Secretary LaHood has been here 3 or 4 times in the last time two years and every time he has said that resources are going to places that have figured out how to make regional transportation decision making. I know there is some passion around this table for that issue. I think one deliverable over the next two years would be to take the opportunity with a sustainability grant, take the opportunity that things are happening in COG and MPO, to create some form for the region to set regional priorities for transportation and be able to use that as a way of dealing with resources at the state and federal level. Third, I think infrastructure, restructuring government is a topic. The third big issue I think we face as a community is our youth. We don't have responsibility for K-12 education, we don't have responsibility for higher education, and that is not our central role, nor do we have a huge role in human services. Yet our workforce, if you look long-range, our workforce is going to be threatened if we don't figure out a way to turn the light bulb on for some of our kids. Whether it is youth employment or after school or whatever it is I think we've got to figure out a way to hone on that so I'm going to be proposing some changes to Workforce Development Board to create a Youth Council and we are going to be talking about trying to expand some of what we are doing on youth employment. We've made some adjustments to after school, but those funds might be threatened by CDBG cuts so we've got a lot of thinking to do about how much do we want to focus on that and how do we apply those resources and what is the most sensible way to get results. That is something that I will be talking about more as we go forward.

To staff I want to say one thing too. You guys are great! Curt, you've got a great team, you are great, I love you. We have a couple things going on that I think are different today. One of them is that the demographics of the City are changing. Another one is that the economy doesn't feel as firm for families and for citizens. I think there is huge pressure on bodies like ours to help figure that out and we do that in partnership. The one thing I would say is that I don't apologize



for pushing us to be more responsive. I think it is what we are responsible for doing, but I think we have made an enormous amount of progress over the last two years and I think we have a lot more progress yet to make. I look forward to working with all of you and look forward to what we can get done.

Mr. Cannon said I hope we won't lose focus of business made easy, and what business made easy means. It is coming up with a more fluid process for permitting as we continue to work through that process. The last two things, amateur sports and MWBE/SBO Programs.

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#### **ITEM IV: GETTING THINGS DONE**

Mayor Foxx said this is like what you want to get done. We are going to have a whole lot of things in this conversation and things that we want to get done, which is what is staff really going to pay attention to. This is really part of trying to do some team building and help me understand what our people want to focus their time. I'm going to make a couple suggestions that I hope you guys will agree to. I would like for us, at least for the first couple months, to do lunch meetings instead of dinner meetings. The reason why I want to do that is because I think that giving this new council more time go through upcoming topics to get consent questions put on the table, to have time for the staff to not only have time to respond, but if there are additional questions that come up after that in advance of the meeting, I think it would make our meetings more a little more efficiently, at least in the first couple of months. I also think it would help us do some team building. If we find that in the first 3 or 4 months that we would rather go back to the dinner meetings, I think it would be find, but I'm going to suggest that as something out of the gate.

Councilmember Howard said what does that look like? Is that 12:00 to 1:00 and what do we do. Do we still get a chance to get briefs on upcoming issues or are we just going over the agenda? Are we just changing the dinner meeting to lunch?

Mayor Foxx said that is what I think we are doing, but Curt, you recall what it was like before.

City Manager, Curt Walton said it was not that before. Before it was just going through the agenda and asking questions sort of like we do in Consent now. We've never done the Dinner Briefing topics at lunch time. If we are talking about do we still need that Dinner Briefing time, but it would be at lunch. If you want to pick up the whole thing and move it, it would probably be 12:00 to 1:30.

Mayor Foxx said I think people probably don't want to do that. I thought that was what it was.

Councilmember Kinsey said you've got to have two hours and I think that would be difficult for people who work, but I do think it would be helpful and it was helpful for me when we had that one hour just agenda briefing 12:00 to 1:00 and as I recall people sort of quit coming. Once you get used to everything you don't come so that is why we quit doing it.

Councilmember Mitchell said when I first got elected it helped me get the questions asked instead of asking them at the dais. At least in that setting it was not as intimidating and we would go through the agenda, but I would agree with Patsy, for those that work maybe if we could keep it 12:00 to 1:00 or maybe 1:30 and give them time to get back to work.

Ms. Kinsey said is it mandatory?

Mayor Foxx said no.

Ms. Kinsey said it is helpful.

Mayor Foxx said it is a set meeting that is noticed.

Mr. Mitchell said it is a public meeting.

Ms. Kinsey said and you should RSVP.

mpl

Mr. Howard said at the Dinner Meeting we can take action and we take votes so it needs to be a regular scheduled meeting if that is what we are doing.

Mayor Foxx said it would be an official meeting.

Ms. Kinsey said, but we wouldn't vote on anything.

Mayor Foxx said the goal of it would be to go through the agenda.

Mr. Mitchell said the Mayor is right, it is a public meeting, but one thing that I did not like is that we were being lobbied and it was an extra level of lobbying. That is a tough balance and I don't know how we deal with that, but somehow we need to make sure it doesn't interfere with what we are trying to accomplish.

Mr. Walton said we can't exclude them.

Ms. Fallon said you can do what we do in Planning, they can't speak.

Mayor Foxx said another thing you probably are already getting a lot of invitations and we get a bunch of them in the Mayor's Office and what I would like to do, based on some of the interest that you share is create sort of a matrix that we will use out of the Mayor's Office. If I can't go do something we would like to have Council representation so if it economic development in District 1 we may have Patsy go do it.

Ms. Kinsey said actually right now they go to the District Rep after Mayor Pro Tem and that has worked well because I know District 1 pretty well and that is usually what they do, in fact I've got one waiting for me right now, so if I can't do it someone may have an opportunity.

Mayor Foxx said I'm not even sure that all of them get fed that way. I think some of them do, but I want to make sure that we in the Mayor's Office have a protocol so all the things that come through we get a chance to see. I think the way we've done Consent has been very effective. I think that was a good improvement which is to have the Consent put up at the beginning of the meeting and if we can do it at lunch. Here is one problem with doing the lunch thing. I don't want us to do Consent twice so if we have a lunch meeting where we go through the agenda and people are doing Consent, you come in dinner and you want to do a Consent Item, I think it kind of wrecks the whole process. Can we agree that if we go into the lunch thing that is the way we are going to do it.

Ms. Kinsey said if the lunch meeting is not mandatory some people aren't going to be there. I don't remember doing it, we could ask questions but you didn't pull any items.

Mr. Walton said we do it different now but the affect is the same.

Ms. Kinsey said what I'm saying is that I think we ought to pull the items at the Dinner Meeting because not everybody is going to be at the lunch meeting.

Ms. Mayfield said so we are going to have both, the lunch meeting and the Dinner Meeting.

Ms. Kinsey said some of us may not go to the lunch meeting, but we will want to pull Consent Items, but we need to do that at the Dinner Meeting. We can ask questions at the lunch meeting, but I will tell you when I was first elected I think there were about four who went to the lunch meeting on a regular basis. The Mayor would come down and grab lunch and go back upstairs, but that was pretty much it. It was just information sharing and asking the stupid questions that new people do.

Mayor Foxx said anybody can pull anything they want when they want to and there is really no rule. Can we try, if you want to pull something let the staff know on the Monday morning maybe?

Mr. Howard said is the proposal just talking about the two options of doing a dinner or lunch? What you are really saying is that you want the Consent part of the agenda to move faster?

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Mayor Foxx said there is also this issue which is that, particularly for new members, I think that if you are pulling items that you are getting a question answered you may have questions that come up after your questions so the idea is to give them enough lead time to get worked through and I think a lunch meeting gives more time.

Mr. Cannon said it probably just depends on the Consent Item itself whether the person pulling it wants to make a comment and sometimes they just pull for show.

Mayor Foxx said I think that is a situation if you want to pull something just to pull it, call staff and that is not a problem, but if is there an informational situation where you are trying to get some answers I'm trying to create some efficiency around that.

Mr. Howard said in a situation where a Councilmember gets their question answered, what other situations would you still want to bring it up. If staff called you and told you what you needed to know what situation would there be to still bring it up at dinner?

Ms. Kinsey said I'm not saying you do it twice.

Mr. Howard said you want the option to do it if you don't come to lunch?

Ms. Kinsey said exactly. I need to ask the Manager something. If we start doing this, allowing the agenda items at lunch, that means you've got to have your whole staff there because as I recall that wasn't the case.

Mr. Walton said no, it would basically be the people you see here and lots of time Consent questions boil down to several levels below what we know so we would still have to take those questions, get them answered in the afternoon and get the answer back to you, which we could do. To reinforce maybe one thing the Mayor is saying, if you use Monday night as an example, you all had been meeting since 1:00 and it was almost 9:00 because there are a lot of committee meetings on Monday. By the time we got through speakers, awards and recognitions and Consent it was almost 9:00, then you have to get through some pretty hard items, curfew, taxicab, and trees as it turned out. I think one goal is probably to get you to the tougher items sooner when you are fresher.

Mayor Foxx said based on the conversations do you have a recommendation beyond what has been discussed about how to do that

Mr. Walton said we would be happy I think maybe if we could work on this a little bit and maybe start with the first meeting in January. Perhaps approach it that items can be pulled and discussed at lunch time or if you are not going to be here you could e-mail or call us and we will try to communicate that back by the beginning of the Dinner Meeting. That way you could decide whether you needed to discuss it anymore and you could even have an item on the Dinner Meeting to discuss Consent or we could just automatically go over to the regular meeting and deal with Consent issues that are remaining there.

Mayor Foxx said I think the reality is that you could bring up an item whenever you want to bring it up, but if we can have a general practice of trying to streamline this and make it as efficient as possible I think it would be very helpful.

Councilmember Cooksey said if you think about the past few meetings and the way Curt phased it from Monday, given how the agenda items are actually numbered, what about abandoning the practice of dealing with Consent, hold the Consent items first and if they are pulled then they come up in the order that they are on the agenda. That puts the Policy Business and then pulled Consent Agenda items. Sometimes I notice when we have pulled Consent Agenda items they wind up expanding to fill some time allotted that they may not need to otherwise. If the items that will tax the most are Policy and Business and not Consent why do anything Consent oriented other than approving, without discussion, the approved Consent ones prior to Policy and Business.

Mr. Howard said staff staying around.

Mr. Walton said you make a good point and Consent is next to the last item and the speakers are actually the last item. You can rearrange any of those but it is fine for the staff to be there. If you want to give that a shot also because those are the items, for the new folks, Consent are things that are basically included in the budget already and have gone through some kind of bidding process. The majority of them are routine, but we always have 3 or 4 that will be pulled for further discussion so we could put those at the end.

Mayor Foxx said how to people feel about moving, is it pulled items or the whole Consent Agenda?

Mr. Cooksey said the order is the Invocation and next the Consent. What are the pulled items, the pulled items are whatever they are. We do the motion on the rest and then you take up the pulled items in the order in which they appear on the agenda. First we do the Manager's Report then Policy then Business and then the pulled Consent items. The affected staff know to stay and if they don't have a full Consent item they can go out to business.

Mayor Foxx said my only concern about that is that I'd have to bring a bag of tomatoes to the meeting. If you've finished all of the regular business I'm afraid somebody might get a bunch of tomatoes thrown at them for going on and on about 15 pulled items.

Mr. Cooksey said I think we are less likely to go on and on about a pulled Consent item than we are to be frustrated and tired for a Business item.

Mr. Howard said it probably would make the pulled items go down if it is going to keep us there later.

Mayor Foxx said I wasn't look at you Andy!

Mr. Dulin said yeah you were.

Mayor Foxx said why don't we give that a shot? I think that is maybe a good way to do it and we can still do the agenda reviews at lunch and see how that goes. If the attendance is poor and it just doesn't go anywhere we can go back to the Dinner Meeting.

Ms. Kinsey said I usually get all my questions answered ahead of time anyway so I don't pull many.

Mr. Mitchell said recap for me.

Mayor Foxx said the idea is that we will still do a lunch agenda preview. We will have the Dinner meeting and I assume questions that have been asked at lunch get reviewed at Dinner. If there are additional things that get pulled they get pulled and hopefully nothing will get pulled, and we will approve the Consent Items as we normally do but at the end of the agenda, we will take up the pulled items on Consent. In effect we will go through the Business Agenda, Policy setting Agenda and then to Consent.

Mr. Mitchell said my only reservation with that, some of us pull items just for information only so our viewership drops from a million people at 7:00 and 12 people at 10:30 so I think our whole purpose for pulling them was to inform them that beginning of the meeting because you know they are watching. It might discourage people pulling items, but I think at the same time it could, and I'm speaking for myself, because I know most people watch from 7:00 to 8:00 and that is why I like to educate them. We might be taking away a service that we are trying to provide to the citizens. I'm willing to try it, but I always thought pulled items, especially information purpose, not a lot of conversation. Some of those for information, I would like to let my citizens know what is going on.

Mr. Howard said we have to make a motion to approve the Consent and there is a question period between the second and the vote. If it takes 2 or 3 minutes for people to say I pulled #5 just to let the community know, between that and the vote just take a few minutes because that is the format, but we still don't mess with the process that Warren talked about.

Mr. Mitchell said I know in 1999 several of us came on at one time. I thought the luncheon was good for another reason also. It was good for the bonding. I think the more you spend time with each other the more you become comfortable with people's style you need to know so I would say for the new colleagues joining us it served a good purpose for me just to get to know each other on a regular basis.

Ms. Mayfield said I was hoping to count on for the seasoned members to show up

Mr. Cannon said that is a good point because if this is something that we are going to commit to, I think it is extremely important that we begin to plan our work next week because having the proper head count, you are talking about efficiencies, the media on a slow news day would love to come in as they did in the past and just complain about nothing really more than food that was wasted. Either you are doing a BYOL or you are going to RSVP for an appropriate head count. That way we aren't beat up because they will do trivial stuff like that.

Mr. Mitchell said for budget purposes Curt, I remember it being \$4,000 to \$14,000.

Mr. Walton said no, I think I remember between \$4,000 and \$5,000 for the lunch. It would only be for the second and fourth Mondays because we wouldn't do it for Zoning and we wouldn't do it for Workshops. The December 12<sup>th</sup> agenda is going to be a tough meeting anyway so we will start this new process, if you go forward, in January. The Dinner Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> is exclusively building. We've got a big Zoning Agenda that night followed by the regular Business Meeting, but then no Zoning meeting the next week.

Mayor Foxx said let me talk a little bit about the meeting times. Our meetings can go as long as we want them to. We can go as long as we have time to talk and my approach on the last Council was to allow people to sort of go as much as they wanted, but it does extend the meeting time out if everyone weighs in on everything. I'm trying to figure out and you are free to talk about whatever you want to talk about, but are there any rules of thumb that we want to use going forward as it relates to just normal speaking time?

Ms. Kinsey said we give citizens three minutes and we probably don't need more than three minutes ourselves. I think if somebody has spoken, they should not be recognized again until all have spoken. I don't talk a whole lot so it really doesn't matter to me but it gets tiresome hearing the same thing out of three different people.

Mr. Cannon said maybe we need to listen more carefully to what each person is saying so we don't repeat it, but I have a little bit of concern relative to limiting a member of the body from speaking on an issue that might be important to his or her district or to the community at large on a particular subject matter. The last thing I want us to look like is the County Commission and what they went through on a similar topic. I agree that if we can find a way to streamline it and maybe Mayor it is three minutes. Maybe it is another set time and then if that buzzer goes off on the Councilmember, just like we ask for permission to be granted for extended time you still have some kind of parameters around it to kind of keep it closed off.

Mayor Foxx said I tell you something that I'm going to do. I think your guidance is right and I think actually our rules require that we recognize someone who is speaking newly to a topic before we recognize someone who has already spoken on the topic. If you have spoken, once you speak you have to yield, even on a rebuttal, so I want to sort of let you know that once you've fired your bullet it is going to be until everyone has fired. The second thing is that I would appreciate it if people wouldn't speak before they are recognized. We've been having people saying Mayor or whatever, just put your hand up and I'll catch you. If I don't catch you, nudge me and I will recognize you, but that really makes it disruptive in terms of moving the meeting along. Sometimes someone has been waiting longer with their hand up and someone will say Mayor, and I will say yes, but I'm saying yes, what are you talking about, not yes speak. That will be the way we go forward. If you are in the middle of a debate and you really want to say something and it really burning, just know that I'm going to get to you and you can have a chance to really think through how you are going to be very efficient with your words when you get a chance to speak.

Ms. Mayfield said I'll ask one of my questions now rather than waiting until the next meeting. Is the Dinner Meeting the time when you are really having those spirited conversations about whatever the issue is prior to?

Mayor Foxx said we've typically used the Dinner Meeting as information gathering meetings so staff may put some topics on the agenda that we won't vote on for another 3 or 4 weeks. Community groups might come and give us information on something that is coming up. Occasionally there will be a topic that is going to be voted on that night that we need to get information and sometimes that does spur a lot of conversation, but for the agenda itself, we don't run through that as a group until we get downstairs and the lights come on. That is typically how it goes.

Mr. Cooksey said to add to that, the Dinner Meeting is best through of as preview of future Council Agenda Items. Sometimes it is the same night, but it is best when it is not the same night to get your questions out. If there is going to be spirited debate I think the interest of transparency to citizens is that we have the spirited debate on camera where people watch what we are saying, not hashing out a bitterly public meeting, but one that no-one else can see and then come around once the cameras go on and say yes, we talked about this so we are going to vote this way. That is not transparency and it is not serving our citizens well.

Mr. Cannon said it is probably going to give you time if you listen during the Dinner Meeting how you are going to measure what it is that you want to say. To the Mayor's point earlier about a bullet, sometimes you don't want to let all your bullets go in that workshop. You want to wait, you want to listen and prepare yourself. It depends on what kind of argument you may be on.

Mayor Foxx said one last point on civility and how the Council has done in the past. We have really done historically, I think a superior job of showing ourselves as a civil body and I think part of that is because people respect each other, but another part is because people have disagreements typically the relationships that we build with each other allows us to have those discussions in committee or if you know someone is on a different side of something and they may have been on the committee and you weren't you have an opportunity to engage. It is not to take away from what Warren was talking about, not transparency, but I would really encourage you to spend time with people who have a different opinion on something and to get to know what that opinion is so at least you've been informed by a different side of things. I think it will help enrich the discussion we have when we are downstairs, so I just want to encourage you to remember that is part of how civility acts.

Ms. Mayfield said so we have meetings twice a month?

Mayor Foxx said we have meetings every Monday except if a month has a fifth Monday. The first meeting is a Workshop. We don't go downstairs into the Chambers. We typically are looking at upcoming issues in those Workshops and we don't typically vote during our Workshops. The second Monday is a Business Meeting and there is a public forum on the Workshops also. The third Monday is Zoning Meeting and the fourth is a Business Meeting.

Ms. Mayfield said I apologize and what I meant to ask is you were starting to tell us what time the Dinner Meeting starts and then we got into different conversations.

Mayor Foxx said the Dinner Meeting is typically at 5:00. We try to start the meeting at 5:15 and punctuality is another thing I guess should be raised. I think we did a better job these last two years of starting on time. We are going to try to be as punctual or even more punctual this time around. My goal is to get you home as quickly as we can without compromising the need to have public discussion during the public vote. If I start pushing on moving through meetings it is not because I'm trying to chant down the debate, I want to help get through and move things along and be a little more aggressive about that.

Mr. Cooksey said from what I'm hearing about December 12<sup>th</sup>, it might spoil this entire pitch, but I'll make the pitch and see how Councilmember Howard and Councilmember Fallon respond to it. Perhaps we could consider investigating freeing up that third Monday by streamlining our Zoning process to roll in Zoning into one of the two existing Business Meetings by taking into account the fact that the vast majority of our Zoning cases are noncontroversial. There may be a

better way to utilize the volunteers on Planning Commission to address the fact that most petitions the hearing involved, we open the hearing, lead the discussion, here is the presentation, excellent presentation, thanks for coming down, close the hearing and nobody speaking against it. Most petitions have no speakers, they follow adopted land use plans, they get staff approval, the get Zoning Committee approval and yet any aggregate in the amount of time we spend opening and closing and dealing with hearings takes up a good chunk of that third Monday. If we focused our time and effort on just those where there was a speaker against, staff had an objection or it was against the adopted land use plan, speaker against also needs protest petition, I think we could save ourselves a third Monday by rolling those petitions into a second or fourth Monday and handling those routine rezoning cases in more with a Consent Agenda fashion following the lead of the Planning Commission. Just food for thought and I don't know that it is going to go anywhere today, but we will see when the twelve are here.

Mr. Howard said just to be clear on what Mr. Cooksey is talking about, we had a Task Force to look at that and made some suggestions, but the idea of how that would work in the process actually has been thought out already much the way he said. There is a body of work to support and to get feedback on how many cases really come through that are controversial, how many we really could push through if we did it in some type of Consent Agenda process.

Ms. Fallon said we may have the issue of transparency and we have a lot of Text Amendments coming now so that may be a problem. People come by and say I didn't know, you didn't say, you didn't tell us, you hid it. How do you handle it?

Mayor Foxx said does it complicate the notice requirements at all?

Mr. Cooksey said there are other jurisdictions who have Zoning and Business in the same meeting. We have probably more flexibility than most anyone out there because our process is so legislative rather than quasi judicial.

Ms. Mayfield said it is quiet now, but it may not be in the next couple years so you have to take that into consideration.

Mr. Cooksey said the tradeoff is to get another Monday off.

Mayor Foxx said this has been good conversation. As we have Workshops we might want to reserve a little time during our Workshops just to check in on how the process is going, so we will try to do that on the first Monday.

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#### **ITEM NO. V: BRIEF SWEARING IN CEREMONY REVIEW**

**Kim McMillan, Corporate Communications** said if all of City Council could be here in this room Monday at 5:30 with your family members and we will have light refreshments for your family members or close friends and then we will do the traditionally Pinning Ceremony and all new Council members will receive their pins. The Mayor has requested that the children of Council participate this year in the Pledge of Allegiance. We will give a little orientation to the family, where to sit, how to participate and then we will escort Council at 6:30, and this is real important that we get you to the studio for your official Council photo and at 6:45 we will escort the family into the Chamber where there will be some reserved seating because we need for them to be able to get back and forth to the dais quickly because your family members join you for your swearing in ceremony. We will promptly start at 7:00.

Councilmember Howard said on the seating situation last year, you should tell us how many so we will know how many seats are reserved. That got to be real interesting last time and we were transitioning and I had family outside, upstairs and all over the place because we couldn't figure out how to access what was going on down here.

Ms. McMillan said I believe all this Council received 50 invitations and if all 50 come that is 650 people. We have made arrangements for overflow seating in every single room. We also are bringing about 100 seats this year to the lobby with jumbo TV screens and I think that will be for  
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the public, but if you have all 50 invitations passed out we are going to get you in there. That is why we recommend that they come at 6:30. We will open the doors at 6:45.

Mr. Howard said do we need to tell you how many to make sure there is enough space for the media? I remember Warren's wife came in during the middle and we had to send her somewhere else because I don't know if there were seats set aside.

Ms. McMillan said our doors open at 6:30 and we will get the family in there. If your family is running late if you could just tell the staff we will do our best to watch a section for you. If you know someone is coming late, please let us know. It will be hard because we have traditionally not roped all our seating.

Mr. Howard said each one of our will get some time, have you allotted that in the schedule, 5 minutes, 10 minutes?

Mayor Foxx said I think anywhere between 3 to 5 minutes, but just multiply what you do times 12.

Mr. Howard said I'm just asking for some time.

The Mayor said it is a guideline, but every time we speak let's multiply it times 12.

Councilmember Cannon said relative to the photo shoot, do you want us uniform in terms of men in gray suits, black, blue or whatever or does it matter?

Ms. McMillan said you would like us to make a recommendation as to what looks best on camera we can email that to you. If it were all solid suits that would make a nicer photo and I'll be happy to put some tips together.

Councilmember Dulin said about the time we speak, there are 12 of us plus the outgoing folks and we've got little kids in the audience. Last time it was pretty well known around town that my wife doesn't like this stuff at all and they got up and left before I ever spoke. She looked at me and said I'm out of here and my family got up and left because people went on and one and on and on. Say hello to your mom, thank you campaign manager and move on. Please have a little bit of respect for everybody's family. There are little kids and it is a school night.

Mayor Foxx said I actually think the issue last time was outgoing and not the incoming because that went on a long time. I don't know how that will go this time but I do think we can be judicious. I think for those that are incumbents, we should be an economical as we can. Folks that are coming in I think we should expect them to want to talk a little longer, and they should, but it is up to you.

Councilmember Mitchell said since we will have everybody in CH-14, could we go ahead and take our group photo here?

Ms. McMillan said we would like to go just around the corner to the studio and that way we have the nice backdrop. In case we have someone that is missing and I've got to magically photo shot you in later, which has been known to happen, I can do that easier with the plain background.

Mr. Mitchell said so we will take a group shot on the 5<sup>th</sup>?

Ms. McMillan said yes, we will take you out of the room for about 10 minutes and then you will go right to the Chamber because your family will already be sitting in there.

Ms. Mayfield said going back to what Mr. Howard said, do you not think it would be easier on staff to give us a headcount for family members. Yes, all of us were given 50 tickets, and we are going to have the overflow, but if I know that there is space for 20 of my family, then I know to have that 20 with me and tell them they need to be here by 5:25.

**City Manager, Curt Walton** said if you can tell us how many seats you need then we can make that happen.



Mr. Dulin said this will be my fourth swearing in ceremony and one of the last three, my mom got a picture of my wife and my three sons and I standing there with hand on the Bible and it really has been one of my favorite pictures of my family and we haven't gotten it since. I asked her after the last swearing in, did you get that shot you were talking about and she said I didn't have my camera turned on. Is it Dan that takes the pictures? If you could get one of your guys to snap, snap, snap and get everybody and then let us have an opportunity to see them, that really was one of my highlighted pictures of my family and the others might enjoy that also.

Ms. McMillan said what might help is that after you have done the ceremony, if the Mayor could just acknowledge maybe a minute for photos in that position we can get everyone.

Mr. Dulin said I just thought I would throw that out for the group. You all don't know how special it is to stand up there with whoever is standing with you, but it is pretty neat.

Mr. Walton said the Council set policy two years ago that the Retreat is some part of the first Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in February which this year it is February 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the first year of a new Council it is out of town and it is facilitated. The primary issue right now is place. We really have two options, the Pine Crest Inn in Tryon, North Carolina is on hold and we may still get the Holiday Inn in Pinehurst. Those I think are about out only two options and we are going to maybe lose those pretty soon. Are those dates acceptable, do we want to go out of town? I would recommend Tryon just because it is a good size and space for us.

Mayor Foxx said we will eventually appoint the Retreat Committee. I think the previous Council sets the date for the next year so for incoming members the question is are those dates okay. You can get back to staff if you have a problem with those dates I think would be the easiest way. Making a decision on the location, I'm fine if you want to make a decision now or if you want to wait until the Retreat Committee does it that is fine too.

Mr. Walton said the price is essentially the same even though Pinehurst sounds like it is more, it is about the same. The lodging along is usually about \$17,000.

Mr. Mitchell said where were saying about the facility?

Mr. Walton said Pine Crest, we are the only ones there and it will take about 30 people. In Pinehurst, there is the Holiday Inn and the Carolina Hotel so we could end up being in a smaller facility, but not exclusively ours or a large facility like Carolina Hotel and either one works fine.

Mr. Dulin said I would like for that decision to be made by the Retreat Committee because there will be other things that pop up.

Mayor Foxx said what is our drop dead time?

Ms. McMillan said they have been waiting for us since about summer time really. There is no drop dead deadline, but the longer we wait the tougher it is going to be nail them down so it is an ASAP type situation. Tryon is where we were before and they already know us, and we already know what they are capable of and everything so they are willing to pretty much have the same set up as we did last year give or take switching around folks different rooms, but at least we know exactly who we are dealing with, how they can accommodate us, but Pinehurst is a totally different ballgame. We'd actually have to go and take a look and verify if they can accommodate us.

Mr. Walton said we've been there before so they can, either is fine.

Mayor Foxx said how many want to wait until the Retreat Committee makes the decision?

Ms. Mayfield said how long is it going to take to put the Retreat Committee in place?

Mayor Foxx said we will get the Committee assignments early next week. There is not a real rush to do that before the Swearing in because there won't be committee meetings before Monday. Dais seating and office stuff will come out Monday.

Ms. Mayfield said I was just wondering as far as letting the Retreat Committee be in charge of it. If there is not that big of a difference in price and if we negotiated it down to the most economical price.

Mayor Foxx said the Retreat Committee will be dealing with, typically they have dealt with the location, but they have also dealt with setting the agenda for the Retreat and that kind of stuff. There is still a need for it, but if you all want to make a decision now on the location you can.

Mr. Howard said I support the Retreat Committee making the decision, but just to give you something to think about, it started snowing on us and we were up in the Mountains and the drive back was interesting because it was snowing and we were driving slow. It is going to snow in February in the mountains and that is not my bag at all.

Mayor Foxx said how many people want to make a decision now? Six raised their hands.

Mr. Mitchell said I would like to make an indication that we select Pinehurst as the site for our Retreat this year. Mr. Cannon seconded.

Mayor Foxx said all in favor of Pinehurst raise your hand. Four people raised their hand. The Mayor said we've got a location and we will get the Retreat Committee formed.

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#### **REQUEST FOR MINUTES ON CLOSED SESSION FOR CHIQUITA**

**Deputy City Attorney, Bob Hagemann** said we have gotten numerous requests today for the minutes of the Closed Session on Chiquita. Since it has been publicly announced no-one has grounds for withholding the minutes so I just wanted to let you know we will probably release those this afternoon and we will send you copies by e-mail.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour, 44 Minutes  
Minutes completed: December 16, 2011