



## **CITY YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

April 7, 2021

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The City Youth Council met virtually, in accordance with State and Federal guidelines designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by John Willis.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: John Willis, Olivia Northrup, Blair Arkles, Kelli Higgins, Victoria Uchendu, Chloe Chaparro, Hayden Beatty, Brian Huynh, Madison Connor, Maya Saxton, and Bethsemene Williams.

Absent: none.

Also Present: Mayor Derek Dobies and Kesha Hamilton.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

Motion was made by Councilmember Arkles and seconded by Councilmember Northrup to adopt the agenda. Vote – Yeas: Councilmembers Northrup, Arkles, Higgins, Uchendu, Chaparro, Beatty, Huynh, Connor, and Saxton. Nays: none. Motion carried.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Racial Equity Commission Chairperson Kesha Hamilton offered a citizen comment.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Presentation by Mayor Derek Dobies.

Mayor Derek Dobies made the presentation to the City Youth Council about the Living Wage Ordinance Proposal.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Councilmember Blair and seconded by Councilmember Saxton to approve the meeting minutes from March.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. REVIEW OF THE ORDINANCE**

#### **POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

The youth council may make recommendations to the human relations commission concerning the needs and concerns of the youth population and the appropriate means by which public and private agencies in cooperation with volunteer efforts may address such needs and concerns. All programs and activities of the youth council will be sent to the human relations commission for approval. The duties of the youth council shall include the following:

- a. To act as a conduit between the city council and the city's youth population to communicate the priorities of the youth population of the city to the city government;
- b. To encourage greater education in civics in local schools;
- c. To develop programming to foster greater civic engagement of the youth population;
- d. To advise the human relations commission on strategies to make the City of Jackson more attractive to youth and conducive to retention of local youth.
- e. To recommend to the human relations commission ways to attract diverse cultures to the community and to foster the community involvement and engagement of a diverse youth population;
- f. To develop programs to help combat health issues facing the youth population such as reducing teenage pregnancy, facilitating smoking cessation, and reducing drug use;
- g. To develop programs to reduce youth violence; combat bullying, discrimination and racism; and encourage compassionate cooperation with other youth;
- h. To develop strategies to foster community service in the city's youth population;

- i. To raise funds for programs that foster the purposes of the youth council and to foster public/private partnerships to support youth issues. Mechanisms for fundraising may include but are not limited to crowdfunding, grants, and gifts from corporation, foundations, and individual donors;
- j. To provide an annual "State of our Youth" report to the human relations commission on the youth population in Jackson along with the activities of the youth council;
- k. To address any other issues affecting the city's youth population while collaborating with community partners.

## **B. ELECTION:**

Motion was made by Councilmember Blair Arkles and seconded by Councilmember Brian Huynh to nominate Councilmember Olivia Northrup as Chair of the City Youth Council. Councilmember Olivia Northrup accepted the nomination. Vote – Yeas: Councilmembers Olivia Northrup, Blair Arkles, Kelli Higgins, Victoria Uchendu, Chloe Chaparro, Hayden Beatty, Brian Huynh, Madison Connor, and Maya Saxton. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Chloe Chaparro and seconded by Councilmember Maya Saxton to nominate Councilmember Blair Arkles as Vice-Chair of the City Youth Council. Councilmember Blair Arkles accepted the nomination. Vote – Yeas: Councilmembers Olivia Northrup, Blair Arkles, Kelli Higgins, Victoria Uchendu, Chloe Chaparro, Hayden Beatty, Brian Huynh, Madison Connor, and Maya Saxton. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kelli Higgins and seconded by Councilmember Hayden Beatty to nominate herself as Secretary of the City Youth Council. Vote – Councilmember Kelli Higgins won the vote against Councilmember Connor and Councilmember Saxton with a total of three (3) votes. Motion carried.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

Motion was made by Councilmember Blair and seconded by Councilmember Saxton to combine the Strategic Planning Meeting with their regular meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Arkles and seconded by Councilmember Saxton. Vote – all in favor. Councilmember Olivia Northrup adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.