



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, December 1, 2022
Council Meeting - 6:30 PM
CENTER POINT CITY HALL

MINUTES

A. Call to Order

B. Invocation

Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr. led the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

D. Roll Call

Councilwoman Tiffany Moore, Councilman Glenn Williams, President Collins

E. Approval of Agenda

President Collins presented the agenda for consideration. Councilwoman Tiffany Moore made a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr. seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the agenda was adopted unanimously.

F. Public Hearing- Capstone Realty

President Collins announced that we are having a public hearing to discuss an abatement for Capstone Realty. She yielded the floor for public comment. There were no comments. President Collins announced the hearing was adjourned.

G. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

President Collins presented the minutes for consideration. Councilwoman Tiffany Moore made a motion to adopt the minutes. Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr., seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the minutes were adopted unanimously.

G.1. November 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

H. Consent Agenda

All items designated as "Consent" are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. NO separate discussion of these items will be permitted unless a Councilmember, the Mayor, or citizen interested in further discussion or hearing so requests, if so, such item (s) will revert to its normal place on the Agenda Order of Business.

Councilwoman Tiffany Moore made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr., seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

H.1. Resolution No. 2022-84- Travel Advance

I. Public Comment

Mr. Jay Owens said that he lives in Birmingham and that in his lifetime, he has probably received two tickets. He said in less than a year, he and his wife received two citations from the City of Center Point. He said that the City of Center Point has cameras throughout the city. He said that he and his wife are very aware of where the City of Center Point cameras are located. He said, especially the one down on 23rd Avenue. He said that you are looking at the camera when you are in these areas. Councilman Glenn Williams asked for clarification, Mr. Owens said that you get violations when looking directly at the camera. He said that he was a bit concerned about that. He said that he had letters that addressed his concerns. He and his wife shop in Center Point, do business in Center Point, eat in Center Point, and have their vehicles repaired in Center Point. He said he hoped this was the best time to present his concerns because it's coming up to Christmas. He said that he would submit the packets to whoever is over at the Public Safety Department and ask again for reconsideration. He thanked them again for their time. President Collins said that she had a question. She asked Mr. Owens if he requested a hearing. Mr. Owens said yes, but he didn't follow through. He said that time is of the essence and that he didn't want to go through door one without going through door two. He said that he wanted to be respectful and come direct. He asked if there were any more questions. Mayor Bobby Scott asked Mr. Owens if he had watched the video and explained that there was a website on the ticket. Mayor Bobby Scott asked Mr. Owens if he went to the website and watched the video. President Collins said thank you. Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr., said he appreciated him for coming out.

Patricia Jamieson said good afternoon to Mayor Scott and to the council and thanked them for letting her have the opportunity to speak to them. She said that she had been a citizen of Center Point since 2001. She said that her concern was about waste and trash pickup. She said she supported the proposed law, the increase in the property tax, and the increase to support our waste pickup. She said she was very disappointed that it had not passed and that the citizens didn't understand the value of what they were passing or missing. She said that she was sure that the council had already met regarding the waste and that they have already found some ideas on the table, but as a citizen, she is asking the city to consider a program or some management where we can pay for our household items to be picked up. She said that she is willing to pay on a monthly basis for her household items to be picked up because she wants the city to look good. She said right now; there are trashy areas that are eye sores. She said it makes it seem like the citizens are not concerned about where they live. She said that she is very concerned about where she lives. She said that she just wants the council to reconsider

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the waste program. Councilwoman Tiffany Moore thanked Patricia Jamieson and assured her that the council is working on a plan. Councilwoman Tiffany Moore explained to Patricia Jamieson that she did not want to speak about it too much because the council didn't have anything concrete, but they had met and were working on something. "

J. Presentation

President Collins announced that we had a presentation with Dr. Gonsoulin, Jr., the superintendent of Jefferson County Schools, and acknowledged his guests that he had with him..DoctorTerrell Brown, Center Point High School Principal, Doctor Angela Bush, Erwin Middle School Principal, Mr. Lavaris Thomas, Erwin Intermediate School Principal, and Mrs. Christie Butler, Center Point Elementary School Principal. President Collins stated that Dr. Gonsoulin, Jr., had more guests as well. Dr. Gonsoulin, Jr., said that he did and asked permission from President Collins if he could introduce them. President Collins said yes and yielded the floor to Dr. Gonsoulin.

J.1. Dr. Gonsoulin, Jr., Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools Stephanie Floyd

Dr. Gonsoulin, Jr. greeted the mayor and council and introduced Ms. Stephanie Floyd, the newly elected Jefferson County School Board Member, and Mrs. O'Neal, the Assistant Principal of Erwin Intermediate School. Dr. Gonsoulin introduced his area directors, Mr. Jay, Mrs. Susan Remick, and Dr. Chris Straywood. President Collins asked for a round of applause for the principals. Dr. Gonsoulin said that he has been conducting these presentations throughout the feeder pattern of Jefferson County Schools. He serves twenty-three mayors and thirteen feeder patterns. He thinks it is very important for him to come and share with the council and the mayor how the schools are doing in terms of achievement on state tests and some of the programs they offer. The educators must take state testing from second to eighth grade throughout the district. He said that we also have to take the ACAP assessment. We take the ACT assessment at the high school level, and other programs are also monitored and evaluated. He stated that at Center Point Elementary, the enrollment is 618 students. He stated that they have a state report card grade level at a number of sixty-five, and in terms of ACAP assessment, he said that he had two areas that he wanted to report. He said that the first area is English & Language Arts. He said that twenty-eight percent scored proficient in English Language Arts, and eighteen percent scored proficient in Math. He said that the other area that he wanted to address was chronic absenteeism. He said chronic absenteeism is when a student reaches eighteen or more absentees. He said that of the 618 students attending Center Point Elementary School, only thirty-two percent missed eighteen or more days. He stated that the number of absent students is 198 at Center Point Elementary School. He said that 504 students attend Erwin Intermediate School. He said that they also received a grade level of sixty-five.

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He said in terms of the ACAP assessment, twenty-one percent scored proficient in English Language Arts and two percent in math. He said that chronic absenteeism is thirty-three percent, meaning that one hundred and sixty-six students have chronic absences. He said that Middle School has a data bank. He said that they look at the fine arts participation rate and the athletics participation rate. He said it was because educators know that, based on research, the more you get children involved, the more likely that children are successful and succeed. Erwin Middle School's current enrollment is 609 students. He informed the council that this number was from last year and was not current. The state report card grade was seventy. The ACAP assessment proficiency results are English Language Arts at nineteen percent and Math at three percent. He said the chronic absenteeism was twenty-eight percent, which gives the numerical results that 171 students missed 18 or more days last year. He stated that the participation rate is forty-six percent of students participating at finals, whether it's choir, band, or theater. He said that in athletics, the participation rate is twenty-two percent. He stated that they measure low because we know that research is telling us if we see that there is an area of improvement, the school can home into these areas and try to get more children involved or even add more things that children might be interested in. He stated that Center Point High School's enrollment is seven hundred and fifty-eight students. He stated that they received a fifty-nine grade. He stated that in high school, it's the ACP that you look at. He stated that in English Language Arts, there was three percent proficiency and one percent in Math. He stated that the chronic absenteeism was thirty-three percent and that two-hundred and fifty students at the high school level missed eight or more days. He stated the final participation rate, which was the choir, theater, and band, was sixty-one percent. He stated the athletics participation rate is twenty-eight percent. He stated that they also look at the graduation rate. He stated that there are graduates who rate it at eighty-five percent. He stated the college and career readiness rate is seventy-eight percent. He explained that college and career readiness mean that the state measures mean that there are certain ways that each child can earn the college and career readiness program. He stated that they could be eligible for the military. They can take an AP course and pass. They can take an enrollment course and pass. They can take one of the career tech courses and get a credential on it or they can be on the career type course. For example, they can take courses like health and science and pass at least three courses they would be considered a completer. And that would give the student a college, career-ready credential. He stated again that Center Point High School's college and career readiness rate is seventy-eight percent. He stated that what they are trying to do as a district is to close that gap. For example, if the graduation rate is eighty-five percent, college career readiness should be eighty-five percent. He stated the state just passed an item that would require everyone graduating from high school next year to have to have a CCR. He stated that three years ago, at the high school level, they started tracking the scholarships as a district. He stated that with their thirteen schools, they have raised one hundred three million dollars worth of scholarships. He said that Center Point High School received 1.3

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million dollars worth of scholarships. He explained there is something called a fast completion rate. He stated that a fast completion rate is for students applying for financial aid to a four-year college. He stated that the completion rate at Center Point High School is fifty-four percent. He stated that in areas like Center Point, he is encouraging children to fill out this paperwork because it gives children an opportunity to earn scholarship money and it helps with the financial burden. Dr. Gonsoulin asked if there were any questions. Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr., stated that he is trying to own the absentee for the high school. He asked what the council could do to bring the absentees because of seven hundred and seventy-eight students and then a percentage of missing absentees. He asked what we could do as a family. Dr. Gonsoulin stated that the council knows that we need to work together. He said that there are certain things that the school system is prepared to do. He stated that they are willing to take care of the academics, but they need some help from the council and parents, and the constituents of Center Point to express the need for children to attend school. Collectively, in the Center Point area, there are two thousand four hundred eighty-nine students, and seven hundred and eighty-five students missed eighteen or more days. For the school district to properly educate the children, they have to come to school. He stated that the absentees is the main thing, but he stated another way that the council could help is to get the message out for the parents to fill out the financial packets. These two things would help, and that would go a long way. Councilwoman Tiffany Moore stated that she had a question related to chronic absences. She stated that she is concerned about high school as well, but obviously, there is a pattern even with elementary school at thirty-two percent. She stated that you could send high school students out of the door and put them on the bus, but it doesn't mean they are going to make it to school, and that is a concern. However, when you have elementary, intermediate, and middle school students not attending school regularly, that is a problem. As an educator, in her mind, kids don't start dropping out this early. She said that she understands that the school system is formulating plans and coming up with ideas, but what is the school system doing to help the feeder pattern in this area? The council knows that this has been identified as a critical issue. She stated that the council could get the messaging out regarding the chronic absentees, but what incentives or what is the school system planning to do because this is an issue? She stated that she knew about early warnings. Dr. Gonsoulin stated that they give early warning signs. He stated that each school has an incentive plan to get the kids to school. He stated that he was talking to a counselor about two weeks ago and learned that they bring guest around the Birmingham area...the Greater Metropolitan areas, like JJ Pruitt and other people, to greet the children in the morning to get them to come to school. Dr. Gonsoulin stated there are parties given for those who have perfect attendance. They can earn movie tickets. He stated that we are going to continue those efforts and that we have got to do more. Dr. Gonsoulin stated that the district level is working on a plan that will target four areas... leadership, teaching and learning, culture and human resources. He stated that you could provide incentives for students, but they're not responsible for getting themselves to school. He stated that we have got to find

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some other ways to connect to those parents. Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr., stated that the school system has the student thing down and the PTA is the parent's thing, but did he have a percentage basis of how many parents come to PTA meetings? Dr. Gonsoulin stated that each school has a PTA or PTO and that is tracked, but as to their involvement, he stated that he didn't have those numbers with him. He stated that this is also an effort to get the parents involved with PTA. He stated that for one reason, or another, it doesn't matter which school. It's the same group of people that are involved with PTA/PTO. He stated that he did have other things to help with school improvement. He stated there would be after-school tutoring too. Dr. Gonsoulin passed out packets to the council because he wanted to speak with them about the different opportunities that they were launching. He said that they have launched a program called signature academics. He stated that they took their thirteen high schools and put them in zones...the northern, southern, eastern, and western zones. He stated that their goal was to provide high wages on that the children would take advantage of and be interested in. He stated that Center Point is in the northern zone, so they are paired with Pinson Valley High School and Mortimer Jordan High School. He stated that these three are paired together to offer the ACE, Agriscience Construction, Culinary Arts, Cybersecurity, Engineering, and Art - Special Effects program. He stated these children have the opportunity to decide if they want to be at the senior school or serve as guests at Pinson Valley or Mortimer Jordan. He stated that they provide transportation to the other schools and bring them back. He stated that right now, it's during the third period. He stated they are guests at these schools, and they return back to their base school. He stated that during the covid, they did a focus student to find out what programs would be interested in because they want to get the CCR rate matched at one hundred percent with the graduation rate. He stated that they got professors from Mississippi State and some local professionals to do some research and talk to the parents to see if they would have a problem with their children traveling from Center Point to Mortimer Jordan to take classes and Mortimer Jordan to Center Point. He stated that the parents did not have a problem as long as they could graduate as an eagle. He stated that is how the programs were centered and wanted to share a couple of those programs with the council. He talked about the ACE College Excellence that is located at Center Point High School. He stated that it provides students with an opportunity to take all required courses for a high school diploma and all required courses for an associate's degree concurrently. He stated that students would graduate from high school able to engage in a high-demand technical field career earning a family-sustaining wage or enter a four-year college as a junior. He stated that these children could graduate from high school with a high school diploma and also obtain an associate's degree from a two-year college, and it's paid for. He said they have ten slots available for each school. He stated that those children would sign up and they would attend Center Point High School at no cost. He stated that includes books and tuition. He stated that Mortimer Jordan had an agricultural science program. He stated that you would be surprised at what interests children if you just exposed the program to the children. He stated that

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he got a chance to speak to the instructors at the other schools, and they will tell you that the children in the signature academies were the children they could teach because they chose their elective and made a decision with their parents to be in the program. He stated that he went to Irondale Middle and Clay Chalkville and spoke with them about the leadership program. He stated that you would have to imagine what it did for the Hispanics and deprived students. He stated that the school system is purposely and intentionally using programs that would interest children. He stated that the Culinary Arts program would be at Mortimer Jordan High School. He stated that they are going to continue educating our children and their parents so that we can get our children to graduate. He stated that the opportunities are available and that he wanted to come before the council to let them know what Jefferson County does. Dr. Gonsoulin yielded the floor to Stephanie Floyd. She stated that she is the newest member of the Jefferson County Board of Education. She stated that the council is familiar with some of the things that she has spoken about during campaigning and that she is determined to continue. She stated that one of the things that she touted was how important it is for the community to be involved with their schools. She stated that strong communities build strong schools. She stated that she had already begun CE courses, and the first one that she took was on community engagement. She stated that one of the things that she is especially looking at in Center Point is working with small businesses or civic organizations to see how we can close the gap or bridge that big hole that's there right now existing with absenteeism. She stated that fourteen thousand days over a year of students that aren't present is a lot of days. She stated that it's not possible for us to educate you if you're not there. She asked if the council had any ideas because this was very critically important. She stated that we could do something different, even if it's two percent. She stated that in about three thousand days that we'd close the gap. She stated this would increase the grades that are shown at our schools. Stephanie Floyd yielded the floor back to Dr. Gonsoulin. Dr. Gonsoulin thanked the council for their support and acknowledged that if he shows up at a football game, it's nothing for him to see the mayor. He encouraged the council to visit the schools. He stated that the board acknowledged the mayor for being highly engaged. He stated that on December 13th, he would be meeting with the other eleven mayors to talk to them about community engagement because it's going to take all of us to ensure that our children succeed. Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr., stated he appreciated Dr. Gonsoulin for coming.

K. Discussion/Action

L. Reports- Mayor & Committee Chairs

President Collins gave the floor to Mayor Bobby Scott for his report. Mayor Bobby Scott thanked everyone for coming out and stated that it is always a pleasure to see the educators, and he congratulated the new district leader. He reminded everyone that the Christmas tree lighting would be tomorrow, December 2nd, at Civitan Park. He said

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there would be a choir from the Elementary, Intermediate, and High School performing. He said the high school band would be there as well. He said there would be goodie bags and special performances. He encouraged everyone to come out and celebrate the event with the city. He said that the Christmas parade was on December 10th. The Grand Marshall would be Coach Bates from Center Point School. Coach Bates has done an excellent job with the football and sports programs at Center Point School.

L.1. Economic Development/Public Safety- President D.M. Collins

L.2. Park & Recreation- Councilman Glenn Williams, Sr.

No report.

L.3. Public Works- Councilwoman Tiffany Moore

No report.

L.4. Education & Library- Councilwoman Sharon Jones

No report.

L.5. Finance Report-Councilwoman Ebonee Copeland, Chair

No report.

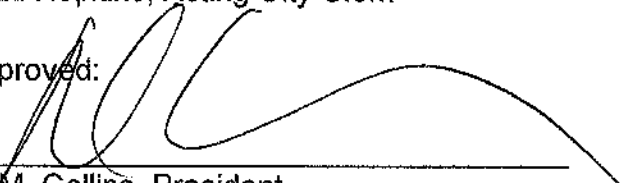
M. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.



Nikki Hopkins, Acting City Clerk

Approved:



D. M. Collins, President

Date: 12/13/22

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