



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 19, 2018**

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a special meeting in the Manager's Conference Room, 425 South Lexington Avenue, Burlington, N.C., on June 19, 2018, at 5:30pm. The North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition's new Executive Director, Beau Mills, shared the board's plan for renewing and reinvigorating North Carolina's urban mayor's coalition.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Ian Baltutis and Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Hykes
Councilmembers Robert Ward, James Butler and Harold Owen

Councilmembers Absent: *None*

City Manager: Hardin Watkins, *present*

City Attorney: David Huffman, *absent*

City Clerk: Renee Ward, *absent*

Media Present: Kate Croxton, Times-News, Tomas Murawski, Alamance News

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Baltutis

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Upon motion by Councilman Ward, seconded by Councilman Butler, it was resolved unanimously to adopt the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Council will hear a presentation by the North Carolina Metropolitan Mayors Coalition's new Executive Director, Beau Mills, who will share the board's plan for renewing and reinvigorating North Carolina's urban mayor's coalition.

Executive Director Beau Mills gave a reprise of his role from 2011-2008.

- Provided background of the coalition and its goals.
- Outgrowth of NC Public Transit Coalition

- Provided history and by-laws of the organization
- Initially called the Metropolitan Coalition
- Early years focus – raising urban issues
- Major media markets allow you to galvanize public opinion
- Meeting held in December 2017 – wanted to continue as an organization, hire a new Executive Director (March, 2018) and should we affiliate with the NCLM
- Beau was asked to meet with all cities and gather information about City priorities. He was asked what the point of the organization was and what the value proposition was.
- Ended the affiliation with the NCLM in 2013
- Meeting on July 18 and 19, 2018, to set priorities and determine what the future of the organization looked like.
- NCLM made a proposal on how to re-affiliate.
- Why – Need someone talking about urban issues. Cities are the economic engines for the state. Other groups are mobilizing around issues that don't benefit metro cities. Allows focus. Helpful for Mayor's networking. Strength in numbers. Regional coordination/collaboration for staff and elected officials weekly conference calls with brief dialogue. A group of urban leaders that can talk and act quickly.

Councilman Ward asked when the Metro Mayors Coalition would decide about an affiliation with the NCLM.

Mr. Mills said that this was objective.

Councilman Ward asked what the NCLM thought.

Mr. Mills said that whatever we do, we will do in collaboration with the League and stay together as a municipal family.

Councilman Ward asked why the split in 2013.

Mr. Mills said strong personalities and salary levels.

Councilman Ward asked would these same issues resurface.

Mr. Mills said that the League Board and the Municipal Mayor's Board had attended each other's meetings and endorsed agendas.

Councilman Butler said that Legislators have been confused. He asked how it could be justified having two separate expenses within a Council-Manager form of government.

Mr. Mills said that Metro Mayors can give special attention and energy to issues unique to urban areas and a different focus from smaller cities.

Councilman Butler said it's a duplication of services, but not getting a voice.

Councilman Owen said that strong personalities, salaries and public transportation were factors in 2013 split. Relationship between NCDOT and cities is where the big money is. He asked how this was communicated in 2013.

Mr. Mills said special emphasis on urban areas.

Councilman Butler said it would be more efficient if it were part of the League with more definition and focus for cities with higher dues. Need to avoid duplication and that the economy of scale was good. He said that he wanted to see it as part of what the League does otherwise; it would confuse State Officials in Raleigh no matter how good communication methods were.

Mayor Baltutis said that there was value in the Metro Mayors weekly calls.

Mr. Mills said that lobbyists were hired and that they did a great job.

Mr. Mills shared that all previous and qualified members were welcomed to attend their July 18-19, 2018, meeting in Greensboro to express views on behalf of cities if interested.

Mayor Baltutis said that the League's Mayor's Association was a mentorship and networking group (peer to peer) and were not focused on metro issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Hykes said she could see value in a group whose focus is urban and that North Carolina had changed. It's of greater value when larger cities show up at the same meeting and was a reason to vote for affiliation with the League.

Councilman Owen said that if the Metro Mayor's group were to affiliate with the League, the League's Mayor's Association would stay in place.

Councilman Ward said that he wanted to see re-affiliation with the League and economies of scale. This would make things easier, thinking about our functions and not personalities. Keep an eye on the ball.

Councilman Owen said that affiliation would be a bigger bang for the buck and would benefit Metro Mayor's immensely.

Minutes submitted by City Manager Hardin Watkins.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Councilman Ward, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hykes, it was resolved unanimously to adjourn. (6:43 PM)

Renee M. Ward

Renee M. Ward, CMC
City Clerk

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