

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Special Meeting on Monday, July 1, 2013 at 4:16 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Anthony Foxx presiding. Councilmembers present were John Autry, Warren Cooksey, Claire Fallon, David Howard, Patsy Kinsey, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell and Beth Pickering.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Barnes, Cannon and Dulin

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SPECIAL MEETING

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Foxx gave the Invocation and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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The Silver Foxes Cheerleaders gave a special presentation in honor of Mayor Foxx.

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Foxx said there is some important business ahead of us today. I thought that in advance of my saying anything that maybe there'd be some opportunity for Councilmembers to talk just ahead of things and then I'll say some parting words and continue the business of Council after I'm done. Mr. Howard wants to be recognized.

Councilmember Howard said I'm not sure how you put into words what this means for the community and definitely what it means to your future. I wanted to just take a moment to say thank you for a few things. I've tried to figure out what are those things that makes Anthony Foxx special other than the fact that the Silver Foxes have your name; they were named after you. One of the things that I know is that most people have no idea how much compassion and passion you have for this community. We've seen it time and time again and then when we get out of the dais a lot of times we rare back so we can do what is politically correct. A lot of times what it has taken to get us through a lot of issues is your compassion and your passion for issues, especially your compassion for the inner city. I think also your leadership has been something that has led us and will be missed greatly around this dais. We've had some really stormy things to deal with the last four years, including the economy and moving our mass transit system forward and a lot of other things. Your leadership has guided us with that. I know the folks in Washington will see that same leadership. I'm sure they're looking forward to that. The thing that I think I'm the most grateful for is I appreciate your friendship. I've told you this before. You started out as a titled Mayor when I first down at this dais. But you're very much now my Mayor and I'm going to miss you and I wish you well that you go away to do better.

Councilmember Mayfield said I think about the years I came before you when you were on City Council, when I was on the other side of this dais in the audience as a community advocate and constantly trying to push you and encourage you to take lead on a lot of the issues in the community and you always had your door open for me. You always listened and encouraged. Since being elected to Council, it has been a great honor and privilege to serve alongside of you, to get to know you better, to have the laughs and the jokes and the serious conversations that we've had. You've been a great mentor in a short period of time. You will truly be missed but as you step into this next part of your journey, know that you are loved in Charlotte. You are well respected and you will truly be missed, but I know you're going to do amazing things not only for yourself, your family, this Country, but for the City of Charlotte and the state of North Carolina. So, thank you.

Councilmember Autry said I was just reflecting over the weekend with some friends at a hot dog cookout in the neighborhood the first time we met you back when you were running for your first run for Council At-Large. You came to the Candidate Forum at Amity Presbyterian Church
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and everyone left that evening impressed with your composure, your passion for the issues facing our city and your obvious determination to be dedicated to the efforts of this City and what the City needs. Little could I have imagined back then that we would be serving together around this dais. But I will always reflect on this time as one of the high points of my existence on this planet and that I appreciated every minute of working with you and this Council and appreciate your mentorship, your guidance and your tutelage that has been absolutely invaluable. So, onward and upward and all the best to you and your family. We'll be looking for you to return sooner or later.

Councilmember Pickering said I just want to thank you for your service to the people of Charlotte. I just want to wish you the very best; you and the family. I'm happy to see the family here; they're getting bigger. I just want to wish you the very best in Washington.

Councilmember Mitchell said I was trying to follow the script here, but I guess I have to say something because most of ya'll don't know the passion this young man had for our city. Plenty of times, 11:30, midnight, 1:00, he's on the phone with us and he's talking about one thing and that is what is best for the City of Charlotte. We're truly losing a young man that grew up right before us and he did it with so much integrity, so much love and a true passion that he wants each citizen to be proud of Charlotte. Mayor, your legacy will be one that I know I'm going to remember, is how you wanted to make sure everyone was special and everyone felt like they were part of a new city called Charlotte. As you go to Washington, I'll be up there quite often. I said to you and I want to say in front of all the citizens, thank you so much for being the type of person you are. Thank you for being the leader that you were for our city and we're so proud of you and wish you so much success as you embark as the new Secretary of Transportation for this United States of America.

Councilmember Kinsey said I want you to know that you have elevated my status considerably with the Transportation Steering Committee of the National League of Cities because they think I can get to you now. When I was in Washington, DC last week, and the announcement was made that you were confirmed, everybody kept giving me little slips of paper to give to you. But they are excited. I was able to meet a couple of your future staff members. They spoke at the meeting. They're very excited about having you come up. I told them we still weren't sure we wanted to let you come. Thank you for everything you've done for our city. I've told you this before; I've worked with your mother, but I dearly loved your grandfather. You're just like him.

Councilmember Fallon said I do wish you and the family the very best of luck. Be very successful. You make Charlotte proud.

Councilmember Cooksey said I was sitting here waiting to see what hadn't been said yet because so much redundant gets around this dais. I think that after the due accolades to our mayor for his next step, its vitality important that we turn to his fantastic family, his better half and the next generation of Foxxs and say thank you for sharing him with us for eight years and for sharing him also with our country. We appreciate that.

Mayor Foxx said I want to thank all of you for your kind words and for all of you who've come here this afternoon to be part of this event; this is obviously an exciting time for my family and for me. It is also a time in which I reflect on what we've tried to do for this city together, not just over the last three and three-quarters years but also over the last seven and three-quarters years. When the final chapter is written in anyone's life, it has to be defined in some ways by "why". Why did this person do this work at this particular time? And when I think about it in my faith tradition, I was drawn to 1 Corinthians where it talks about love. There are certain types of love that you have; you have love of your family, and I have a beautiful family. My wife and my kids, my mom, who's here, and my 96 year-old grandmother who's probably watching on Channel 16, have been enormously supportive and vital to everything that I've done in this work. You have love of God. You have love of a community. When I read this passage, it really made me think about this and some of you would disagree with some of this. But it says, "Love is patient, love is kind; it does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs." It goes on and on but at the end, it says. "It always protects; it always trusts; it always hopes; and it always perseveres". And when I think about this time in my life and the work we've been able to do together, I think

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about that very simple four-letter word. It was love of this community that motivated me to seek out city council at a time when the city was actually riding pretty high and I saw some cracks that I saw some cracks that I thought we needed to address; some of it had to do with how safe our streets were. Some of it had to do with whether we were keeping up our infrastructure; our roads. Some of it had to do with whether we were really doing what we could to help those people who were at the margins; whether it's housing or any number of issues they face. I remember as a freshman councilmember within six months of my term having to work with several of you to pass a budget that year over a veto to put more police officers on the street, to put the most the most significant transportation bonds in the City's history in place and to restore our commitment to our neighborhoods and to the people who need us in our community. Because of that work, we have seen historic lows in our crime rate. We have seen dramatic investment in infrastructure because at that time, we didn't know it then, but interest rates came crashing down, construction prices dropped, so we got more mileage out of those dollars back then than we thought we could. And as a result, our city was stronger. When I decided to run for Mayor in 2009, that was another challenging moment. It was challenging for us because we knew we were in the middle of a recession. And I knew in the course of the campaign that there was going to be not one easy day in this office. I knew that the magnitude of the challenges facing this community were substantial. We'd lost 27,000 jobs two years prior. We'd lost a major employer. The psychology of our city was damaged. And over this period of time, just look at what we've done. Try to fit it into a decade and I dare you to try to do it. We've taken this community from negative job growth to positive job growth. We are providing more support for small businesses than we ever have. We've restored our connection to our minority and women owned businesses. We're working in housing in new and important ways. We have our first city inclusionary zoning ordinance. We have passed a capital budget that not only provides traditional housing trust fund dollars, but also provides land banking, residential rental subsidies, that's also providing \$12 million dollars for support of housing; which has been a familiar reframe to those of you on the Council listening to me because we've people at 30% and below area median income who need our help. And it saddens me today, July 1st, to know that today is the day for 70,000 people across this state and 7,000 right here in this county, who are losing unemployment insurance and so the challenges are only going to get tougher. That's why even just last week, I spoke out about the transit plan that you all were debating about housing because I think we need to be providing more options for housing, not fewer options for housing this city's poor. When I think about transportation, we've had some pitched fights that haven't always been partisan fights; they've been intraparty, interparty; all kinds of parties. Very few of the parties have been fun. But let me try to put that into context. Charlotte has grown population even in this recession. We lack the ability to grow this city's borders in the way that we've grown them over the last 40 years. Because of that, we have to create more of a foot print within our existing community to grow population, to raise revenue over time, so we're not having tax increases year after year after year after year after year. And one of the major things this community has done to try to address that is its' centers, corridors and wedges plan. And, an integral component of that plan is the transit plan. And so over this period of time, when we could have lost the Blue Line, we could have not made progress on any other front, we were able to get the Blue Line put together and funded a billion dollar project; , the biggest capital project in the City's history. We were also able to make progress on getting the streetcar line built. Thanks to a couple of folks having a moment of enlightenment, we're able to get a least to get an opportunity to advance that project further. I'm very proud because three years ago, no one thought that we could have gotten any of that done. And, I want to thank the MTC, Councilman Howard and Mayor Jill Swain for working collaboratively to develop a funding framework for our transit plan into the future. How we got here isn't how we're going to get there. But we're going to figure it out and we've figured it out with this working group. And then, we think about our wonderful neighborhoods, our wonderful community. I love this city. I will always love this wonderful place. I scraped my knee on its streets. I went into its schools and got a wonderful education. I've met some of the finest people I will ever know in this world right here in Charlotte. But in order for us to restore and perpetuate that type of future for children coming forward, we've been working mighty hard to help create that path. I'm proud of this community for coming together with Project Lift to close the achievement gap and to prove that young people in every part of this community want to learn, they want to advance, and they want to be able to be successful in life. I'm very proud that we took this little youth employment program, 48 kids. You will not believe how I had to fight to get this in this building. We now have 3,200 kids who are getting opportunities. And the reason, getting back to how it started, why do you do

this, it's love. Love was what made my streets safe when I was a kid. It was what made a teacher from West Charlotte High School buy me a \$25 shirt so I could be in a debate competition. It was what this community shows every single day when we're at our best. And you may disagree with the methods and means, but there can never be a disagreement that I love this community and have worked my tail off to make this city everything it can be. So with that, I just say to you that there will be decisions in the future this Council will have, maybe in the short term, maybe over the long term, but you got the blueprint now. Two weeks from now the Blue Line will break ground, I won't be Mayor to see it, but I swear I worked hard to get that done. We've got a capital budget that comes up on the ballot in 2014. And if you stay the course, you'll see this community revitalized. You'll see people connected. You'll see them feeling the vibrancy of the whole community coming together in a way that we've never seen in this city before. So, I just want to say thank you to Charlotte. Thank you for what you've given me. I've tried to give some measure of it back. And I care deeply about the future of this place. I leave it to you, in good hands. And I hope that I come back home and I see the evidence of the things we've been able to do together actually happening, that we'll have an opportunity to say to each other, we were there together at this particular time because there was a higher purpose to which we were all called to serve. With that, I, effective this very moment, resign as the Mayor of this city. God bless Charlotte. Thank you.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Howard said if we can come back to order. Mr. Mitchell, I recognize you.

Motion to appoint Patsy Kinsey as the Mayor of the City of Charlotte was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield. The vote was recorded as follows:

Councilmember Fallon said I really don't understand why we are not waiting for transparency and fairness to the community. Why are we rushing? This has nothing to do with anybody sitting here. I just don't believe that anybody sitting in the seat now should be, unless they want to resign running for Council for Mayor. I think it's not fair to the community that they haven't had a chance for input.

YEAS: Councilmembers Autry, Cooksey, Howard, Kinsey, Mayfield, Mitchell.

NAYS: Councilmembers Fallon and Pickering.

Councilmember Howard said Ms. Kinsey, congratulations; you have been appointed as the Mayor of Charlotte.

Councilmember Kinsey said I am going to present my resignation to the City Clerk.

The oath of office was administered to Mayor Kinsey by Judge Regan A. Miller.

Mayor Kinsey said I'm humbled and honored to be appointed Mayor and thankful to my fellow city council members for their vote of confidence and this tremendous opportunity to serve our community. I pledge to work with all of you to ensure a seamless transition and steadfast leadership so that we can continue to move our city forward. It will be difficult to fill Anthony Foxx's shoes. He helped shepherd Charlotte through the Great Recession and brought Charlotte the Democratic National Convention to boost our international profile. From transit to housing to his work with Charlotte's youth, he has clearly left a legacy of accomplishments. Suffice it to say, we will miss his leadership and dogged determination to this city, dedication to this city. But I look forward to building on all his achievements. Like Mayor Foxx I also have strong ties to this region. My grandfather was Mayor of Huntersville and a member of the Mecklenburg County School Board. And having served on the Mecklenburg County Commission before joining City Council in 2003, I have been proud to carry on my family's tradition of public service. As Chair of Council's Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee and a member of the Transportation and Council Manager Relations Committees, I've worked closely

with Mayor Foxx, my fellow councilmembers and city manager to address our community's affordable housing needs and build a 21st Century infrastructure system for our city. And as Council's liaison to the Centralina Council of Governments, I know the importance of collaborative regional growth and decision making. It's also been a privilege to represent the City's priorities outside the Government Center on a variety of non-profit and government boards, including the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library, the YWCA, Levine Museum of the New South, the Mental Health Association and Discovery Place. My family has always been a great inspiration to me and I'm proud to have several family members joining me today; my daughter Betsy Muse, seated over here, and you've already seen my granddaughter, Emily Ann Muse and my grandson Cooper Lee Kinsey. My sons, Charles and David Kinsey, and my granddaughter Katy Muse, couldn't be here in person, but are certainly here in spirit. And it's with the welfare of these future generations in mind that I pledge to be a strong advocate and steadfast leader to protect Charlotte's interests. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell to approve the process for filling the District 1 City Council Vacancy as described by the City Attorney and seconded by Councilmember Howard.

Bob Hagemann, City Attorney, said what we are proposing to you is a process for filling the vacancy that now exists in District 1 on City Council. We're proposing that the City Clerk and Corporate Communications advertise the vacancy using the media, City website, and the Government Channel in inviting applications. The eligibility requirements are that who you appoint must be at least 21 years of age, must be a resident of District 1 and must be a registered Democrat with the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections. Those are requirements of state law. We are proposing an application deadline of Noon on Monday, July 15, 2013. That will give us time to package up the applications and get it to you for your Zoning Meeting. Then we're proposing an agenda item the following Monday, July 22, 2013, where anybody who wishes to address you on the subject would be entitled to as an agenda item. Following that, the Council could then move to fill the vacancy. I will also add that while not a legal requirement, the Council's tradition has been when filling a vacancy on Council, to only consider someone who pledges not to run for that particular office in the upcoming election. You will know that for sure because filing for elections closes on the July 19th, which is before the proposed July 22nd appointment date.

The vote on the motion was carried unanimously.

Councilmember Howard said I think we ought to all be very proud, I know I am, that today I had a part in appointing the second female Mayor of the City of Charlotte.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kinsey adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 40 Minutes
Minutes Completed: September 16, 2013