

TOWN OF GREENSBORO  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
October 4, 2018

In Attendance: Mayor Noon, Commissioners Wake, Reichart and DeSimone, and Mackey.

Staff: Amber Korell, Jeannette Delude

Public: Cindy & Bob Harrison, Rick Faust, Cathy Spencer, Andre Sorrell, Monique Sorrell, Amia McGowan, Berl Lovelace, Gwendolyn Wright, Bill Beall, Darlene Lovelace, Brandon Jackson, Latoya Holley, Latonia Black, Antone Black, Henry Cherry, Tevron Brown, James Holley, Ezola Webb, Willie Woods, Mary Boyce, Mercadez Robinson, Christina Robinson, Kterra Harris, Miracle Jackson, Russell Brittingham, Faith Cook, Diamond Robinson

*Entered executive session at 615pm prior to the regular meeting.*

*Attendees: Mayor Noon, Comm. Reichart, Comm. Wake, Comm. DeSimone, Comm. Mackey, Jeannette DeLude, Bill Beall, Alan Copping*

*Mr. Beall reviewed details of a contract renewal. No action was taken.*

*Mr. Copping discussed an employee issue in regards to the MDIA contract with the Town of Greensboro. The Council agreed to allow the contracted employee to continue to do inspections for the town.*

*Executive Session was adjourned at 655pm*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Minutes from the September Town Council Meetings were reviewed. Comm. Reichart motioned to approve the August Council Meeting and Workshop minutes. Comm. Mackey seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Constellation Energy Renewal-Bill Beall

Mr. Beall talked about the renewal of the Constellation Energy contract. Mr. Beall will get a 4-5 year price plan. Comm. Mackey made a motion to give Jeannette permission to make decisions on the term of cost energy, as long as the price is cheaper than we currently pay; Comm. Wake seconded the motion. All approved, motion carried.

Debbie Bowden- Enterprise Zone

An Enterprise Zone will allow for business and homeowners to apply for grants and loans to clean up or repair their homes and businesses. Town of Ridgely, Goldsboro and Greensboro will be filing a joint application with the Maryland Dept. of Commerce to be a designated Enterprise Zone.

This zone will allow income tax credits for businesses that create jobs or do \$100,000.00 in upgrades to the business.

The application deadline is October 15, 2018.

Debbie Bowden will be the administrator.

GVFC- Rick Faust

October 14<sup>th</sup> is the Ridgely Car Show and GVFC will be there with our food trailer

Planning and Zoning – Jeannette DeLude

It's that time again to update our Comprehensive Plan; the last time we did this project we had Bruce Galloway as our planning administrator. This is usually a lengthy process that we need to get started on the State mandates we update our Comp. Plan every 10 years and it takes about 5 years to work on it. Jeannette has met with KCI Technologies who does on call planning administration and believes they would be an excellent tool for us to have in this update process.

KCI Technologies will be coming to the next PZ Meeting on 10-16-2018 to give a presentation; the council is welcome to attend.

The Council gave Jeannette permission to proceed with contacting them for prices and have they come to a council meeting in November.

Parks Board- Rick Faust

Christina Robinson has stepped down from the parks board and Kat wants to join. Kat will drop off an application to Town Hall.

Rick Faust was named Chairperson, Paul Starkey is Vice-Chair, and Gabby is the secretary.

Lighting of the City will be December 8, 2018; we are currently working on this event and have a meeting next week.

Public Forum

The family and friends of Anton Black came here tonight to ask the council a few questions about what happened the evening Anton died that have them concerned.

Mayor Noon said the council was not allowed to answer questions about the incident, as the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit still is investigating it, but he encouraged people to voice their concerns.

(Please see the attached newspaper article from that evening)

Mayor Noon stated that Anton was in his teen group and he had even had this young man inside his home. He does not want anyone to think that this council doesn't have heart because we do!!! Believe in him that he and the council are feeling this as well.

Comm. Mackey stated that the council does have hearts and we did know Anton personally. That is all I can say.

Comm. Wake stated he has a hard time dealing with this legal line that we cannot cross. It hurts him he cannot reach out to the family and friends at this time.

*Comm. DeSimone made a motion for a 5 minute recess @ 8:15pm; Comm. Mackey seconded the motion. All approved.*

*Comm. DeSimone made a motion to enter back into the meeting at 8:20pm; Comm. Mackey seconded the motion. All approved.*

Town Manager - Jeannette Delude

Ms. Delude went over the Town Manager report.

**From:** Jeannette DeLude

**Date:** 10.4.18

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- At the last meeting you asked me to review the accounts for the people who came to discuss their most recent bill. I had our Public works crew go out and do manual readings on each of those meters. All of the readings matched perfectly with the electronic readings we received from our Aclara system. I reviewed the history for each of the accounts comparing last summer's usage to the current summer's usage and found that there was very similar usage on all accounts. We found no leaks at any of the properties. A couple of the property owners actually found items on their own that were causing high usage including one who had a bad flapper in the toilet and one who discovered that she had installed a pool the previous summer and since the installation both summers had similar usage. We had two properties that I did not have a phone number in the system so I sent letters to those property owners with my findings and have had no response since they went out.
- I also have spent a lot of time looking at various options for possibly capping the sewer usage in the summer at the request of Comm. Reichart and Comm. Wake. We have looked at several different options that I'm sure they will discuss with you.
- I attended the ESAM meeting last week and sat with a lady from KCI Technologies. They do on call planning administration which is what Bruce Galloway used to do for us. We have been searching for some time for someone to replace Mr. Galloway since he retired and have been unsuccessful in finding someone we could afford. I asked for them to come meet with me and I actually had lunch with them today. We will definitely need to get someone in place in the very near future as we start to work on the state mandated comp plan update. They were really knowledgeable and actually work with several towns in our area and I have personally worked with them on small projects that they have done for outside organizations like the Greensboro Library. I think they would be an excellent tool for us to have and we only pay when we actually use them which are a huge bonus for us. They will be coming to do a presentation for the Planning Commission at their next meeting on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to come and listen in and I will also have them come to one of the Town Council meetings in November so hopefully we can sign them on to help us.
- I also attended the Lions' Club meeting at their request. They have a committee of people who have partnered with the Town for many years installing the Christmas lights on the poles. The lights we currently have are very old and we are unable to get parts for them any longer. We will need to purchase new lights for the poles and they wanted to work with us on this project. I obtained some preliminary information and as with everything they are very expensive. The cheap lights are between \$300-400 per light and we have 42 lights we put up on the poles. I am going to see if I can get one of the companies who do this sort of thing to come out and look at what we have to see if we can use the same brackets to help save on expense since they are still in decent shape. Between the Lions Club committee and myself we will do some

research to see what is out there as I said we just did a very preliminary search and need to do more in depth research. I just wanted to make you aware of the situation and let you know what's headed our way.

- I had sent you all an email inviting you to join Sue Simmons and her advisory group for a tour of the land where they will be building the North County regional park. The tour will be tomorrow from 430pm to 530pm if you want to attend. They will meet at the Fire Dept. Community building parking lot.
- Just a reminder the office is closed on Monday for Columbus Day. We will reopen on Tuesday morning.

Mayor Noon stated they would discuss the sewer cap information at the next workshop meeting.

#### Old Business

Sign- Council has two new quotes for both a one sided sign and the double sided sign. Council asked Jeannette to bring all three quotes to the workshop meeting and we will make a decision then.

#### New Business

A start up broadband internet company called and spoke with Jeannette about putting an antenna on our water tower and gave us a figure of \$250.00 a month as tower rent. Mayor Noon asked to have him attend the next workshop meeting.

Mayor Noon asked Jeannette about the bank accounts and if we had switched our money to another bank. Jeannette advised them she had visited and sat down with a few different banks in our area and discussed accounts. Provident State Bank in Denton had the best option in a "Business Elite Account" which wouldn't charge the town transaction fees.

Comm. Reichart made a motion to allow Jeannette to withdraw money from BBT Bank and open a new account at Provident State Bank; Comm. Mackey seconded the motion. All approved motion carried.

#### Bills

Bills were reviewed and approved.

#### Town Council Remarks:

Mayor Noon said we will be closing on 118 N Main Street shortly after the public hearing on October 18, 2018.

Mayor Noon asked Jeannette if we can have Baldwin Homes cut the trees and weeds around his property. Jeannette will contact Baldwin.

Mayor Noon asked if we can get SHA to clean up the weeds in the storm drains on their roads in our town. Jeannette stated we normally end up having our PW crew do that but she will contact SHA and see if they would do it.

#### Police Dept.

Chief Petyo stated they had received a training grant in the amount of \$3,000. They will award the grant at the next council meeting.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:28 pm

Comm. Reichart motioned to adjourn the meeting. Comm. Mackey seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

*Entered an emergency executive session at 845pm*

*Same Attendees as first executive session.*

*The Council discussed an employee issue and a legal issue. Town Attorney Brynja Booth was contacted via phone for legal advice. No action was taken.*

*Executive session was adjourned at 910pm*

Respectfully Prepared by  
Amber R. Korell

# Searching for answers

Family, friends bring questions about teen's death to Greensboro Town Council

By ABBY ANDREWS

[aandrews@carolinehinesrecord.com](mailto:aandrews@carolinehinesrecord.com)

**GREENSBORO** — Family and friends of Anton Black, the 19-year-old Greensboro man who died Sept. 15 while in police custody, packed the Greensboro Town Council's meeting Thursday, Oct. 4, seeking answers about what happened the evening he died.

Mayor Joe Noon said the council was not allowed to answer questions about the incident, as the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit still is investigating it, but he encouraged people to voice their concerns.

Those who spoke expressed anger about what they believe was an overreaction by responding officers and frustration that the involved town police officer still is on duty, but mostly grief for the well-loved young man whose life was cut short. "We didn't come here for chaos; we came here for answers," said

Monique Sorrell, Black's sister. "We want justice served. We're not just here for Anton. We're here for other young kids, too."

The preliminary report from Maryland State Police said Black was accused of trying to abduct a 12-year-old boy shortly after 7 p.m. Sept. 15. Police said an officer from the Greensboro Police Department was dispatched to Sunset Avenue in the area of the Choptank River bridge and allegedly saw Black forcibly restraining a boy.

Andre Sorrell, Monique Sorrell's husband, said besides being Black's brother-in-law, he also is related to the 12-year-old boy.

Sorrell said Black and the boy knew each other very well, and he does not understand why police thought Black was trying to abduct him.

See **ANSWERS**

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PHOTO BY ABBY ANDREWS

Friends and family of Anton Black came to the Greensboro Town Council's meeting Thursday, Oct. 4, to ask questions about the teen's death while in police custody.

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## ANSWERS

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"I feel officers overreacted to a situation that shouldn't have escalated to that level," Sorrell said. "I'm not going to assume anything, but it's a dicey situation, and we're not sure it should've been handled the way it was."

The preliminary report said Black tried to flee, and the foot pursuit ended at Black's home in a mobile home park in the 13000 block of Greensboro Drive. Black jumped into the driver's seat of his vehicle, parked next to the family's home, police said.

LaToya Holley, Black's sister, said her brother ran because he was afraid.

"Whatever that cop said to him instilled fear in him," Holley said. "He respected authority. He would not have just ran for no reason. He feared for his life so he chose flight."

The preliminary report said Black then tried to exit the passenger side of his vehicle, and the officer deployed his department issued taser, striking Black, who continued to flee. Black allegedly bit two police officers and a civilian who was trying to assist police.

"I'm sure that did not make (police) happy they had to go after him, and things got out of hand really quick," Holley said.

Police said Black eventually was placed in handcuffs and ankle restraints. Moments later, officers recognized Black was showing signs of medical distress, police said. They called for an ambulance and gave medical assistance on scene by ad-

Berl Lovelace, president of the Caroline County chapter of the NAACP, reminded the council he questioned Webster's hiring back in March and wrote each of them a letter urging them to reconsider it.

"Whatever the outcome of this investigation is, you could have avoided it," Lovelace said. "A small police force like this, you don't need someone with a past history that he had."

"My parents and my grandmother told me a long time ago, never say I told you so. This is one time I disregard what they said. Because I told you so."

Mary Boyce of Greensboro, who said her granddaughter is pregnant by Black, asked why Webster was hired.

"... (W)e said let's give him another chance," Boyce said. "Well guess what. You gave him a chance. And this young man, my granddaughter's baby's father, will never hold his baby."

When questioned why Webster was still on duty during the investigation, Town Manager Jeannette DeLude said the town attorney advised them not to put him on leave.

Doretha Dennis of Greensboro said the town had failed its citizens.

"As mayor, you failed us," Dennis said. "Because my children are afraid. You allowed this man to come in, knowing his background, but you did not care. I'm disappointed."

Black's family said hurtful comments, overheard in real life and read on social media, about Black have added to the pain of losing him.

Before he graduated from North Carolina High School in 2016, Black was a star football player and track athlete.

1 ministering Narcan and performing CPR.  
2 Black was taken by ambulance to Uni-  
3 versity of Maryland Shore Medical Center  
4 at Easton, where he later was pronounced  
5 dead.

6 Black's body was taken to the Office of  
7 the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore  
8 for an autopsy. The autopsy did not reveal  
9 a cause of death, and no significant inju-  
10 ries were noted by the pathologist, the  
11 MSP said. Toxicology results are pending,  
12 along with the results of additional testing  
13 of vital organs.

14 An MSP spokesman said Sept. 17 the  
15 toxicology report could take four to six  
16 weeks to complete.

17 Black's family has retained Rene Swaf-  
18 ford, a Greensboro-based lawyer.

19 Upon completion of the investigation by  
20 the MSP, the case will be forwarded to the  
21 Caroline County State's Attorney's Office  
22 for review.

23 While the town council could not legally  
24 confirm which Greensboro police officer  
25 was involved in the incident, it did not re-  
26 fute it when Black's family and friends said  
27 they knew it was Thomas Webster IV.

28 Webster is a former Dover, Del., officer,  
29 released by that city's department in 2016,  
30 three years after a dash cam captured  
31 footage of Webster, who is white, kicking  
32 Lateef Dickerson, an unarmed black man,  
33 in the face and breaking his jaw, and two  
34 months after a jury acquitted Webster of a  
35 resulting assault charge.

36 The City of Dover agreed to pay Webster  
37 \$230,000 over six years after his release  
38 from the police department, on the condi-  
39 tion he never again would seek employ-  
40 ment there, and paid Dickerson \$300,000  
41 to drop a federal civil rights lawsuit against  
42 the city.

43 Webster was hired by Greensboro's de-  
44 partment early this year and began patrol-  
45 ing in April.

46 His brother, Brandon Jackson, came to  
47 the meeting wearing all the medals Black  
48 won at track meets.

49 "When my brother played football, I saw  
50 the Greensboro police car right there. I'm  
51 sure they were cheering him on like you all  
52 cheered him on," Holley said. "For people  
53 in this town to sit here and pretend like my  
54 brother was a monster, I can't accept that.

55 "I feel as though everyone wants to de-  
56 monize him, make him out to be this big,  
57 bad man that was trying to drag a little kid  
58 and do who knows what. That was not An-  
59 ton. He was such a loving spirit.

60 "I don't understand why I'm looking at  
61 Facebook and seeing the nastiest com-  
62 ments being posted by this community,  
63 talking about how he deserved to die."

64 Noon said he knew Black personally, as  
65 he was a member of a teen group Noon or-  
66 ganized.

67 He apologized for not reaching out to  
68 the family immediately after Black's death,  
69 but he said the town attorney told him not  
70 to do so while the investigation continued.

71 "I don't want you to think that we're not  
72 feeling this up here (on the town council),  
73 because we are. But we have rules we have  
74 to go by," Noon said. "We couldn't even go  
75 to his funeral to show our support because  
76 of the investigation.

77 "I'm sorry, family, that I haven't come  
78 and knocked on your door, but we were  
79 advised we can't. I just want to say I feel  
80 your pain. I really do."

81 Monique Sorrell said she felt a little  
82 better knowing the town council had not  
83 reached out because they were not al-  
84 lowed.

85 "It feels better to know you cared," Sor-  
86 rell said.

87 "We have to live with this the rest of our  
88 lives," Sorrell said. "We have to remember  
89 his face, remember him in a coffin, and I  
90 don't wish that on anybody."



SIGN IN SHEET

Meeting: Town Council

Date: 10-4-18

Name	Street Address	Wish to Speak: Yes or No	If Yes, Topic to be Addressed
Andre Sorrell	224 Willowwood Dr Smyrna DE 19977	yes ✓	Questions concerning Police Dept.
Monique Sorrell	" "	yes ✓	" "
Amia McGowan	" "	yes No	" "
Bert & Tombara	Ridgely - NAACP 13517 Ridgely Road Greensboro MD 21639	NO	
Gwendolyn B. Wright	ATK	NO	
Bill Spald	ATK	yes ✓	clearing
Doreen Loveless	Ridgely MD	NO	
Brandon Jackson		X	
Latoya Holley			
Latoria Black			
Andone Black			
Henry Cherry		X	
TERRON DEARON		X	
James Holley			

SIGN IN SHEET

Meeting:

Date:

Name	Street Address	Wish to Speak: Yes or No	If Yes, Topic to be Addressed
Estela Webb			
Willie Woods			
Mary Bayer			
Poulla Duvier			
Rosemary Bell			
Gerrit Bell			
Ly Spencer			
Mercaderz Robinson			
Christina Robinson			
Katherine Harris			
Miracle Jackson			
Russell Brittingham			
Faith Cook			

**SIGN IN SHEET**

**Meeting:**

**Date:**

Name	Street Address	Wish to Speak: Yes or No	If Yes; Topic to be Addressed
Diamond Robinson			