

MINUTE BOOK 31, PAGE 341

STATESVILLE CITY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – September 24, 2025

CITY HALL – 227 S. CENTER STREET, STATESVILLE, NC – 6:00 P.M.

Council Present: Mayor Kutteh presiding, Jones, Lawton, J. Johnson, Wasson, Hudson, Pearson, S. Johnson

Council Absent: Allison

Staff Present: Ron Smith, Messick, Harrell, Pierce, Caulder, E. Kurfees, G. Kurfees, Onley, Griggs, Nesbit, Galliher, Griffin

I. Call to Order

Mayor Kutteh called the meeting to order.

II. Invocation

The City Clerk led the invocation

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kutteh led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Conduct a public hearing and consider recommending approval of the Garfield/Green Street Historic District National Register Nomination to the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee. (Sigmon)

Mayor Kutteh thanked the committee for their work on the historic district.

Sigmon stated that we are asking for a National Historic District for this area. Currently, the city has 4 local historic districts and 2 national historic districts. She provided background information on how this nomination came about.

Susan Mayer and Nick Linville are the consultants for this case.

Linville stated that he is a historian and stated that this is one of the most interesting areas that he has worked on. He reviewed the background research. They walked the entire district. He reviewed the information required on the application. The district is significant under Criterion A: Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The area of significance: the historical theme or themes with which the district is associated: Black and civil rights. The period of significance: 1886-1973.

Susan Mayer reviewed important places in the district. There are 285 parcels in the district, 198 primary buildings, 22 outbuildings, and 95 vacant lots. A building is a place that contributes to the district: the build date, location in the date, association to criterion A for Ethnic Heritage, and integrity of the building.

Mayor Kutteh opened the public hearing.

Carolyn Templeton, 1601 Joy Drive, is in favor of the nomination.

Vivian Williams, 1215 McLaughlin Street, is in favor of the nomination. She stated that she went to the First Baptist Church on the corner of Garfield and Green Street. She remembers the civil rights movement.
Page 1 of 2

Marva McKinnon, 2629 Fern Creek Drive, is in favor of the nomination. She is on the committee. She is concerned that our history will not be known to our children without this district.

M. El-Amin, 2380 Ora Drive, is in favor of the nomination. He told his story. He stated that the contributing structures should allow the district to be recognized.

Mayor Kutteh closed the public hearing.

Council member S. Johnson asked a question regarding the national and local districts. He is concerned that the properties need to be renovated and local restrictions being too expensive. The consultant stated that the restrictions will not be put in place in this district. Council Member Pearson stated that is why we applied for a national district. Sigmon stated that the council would have to approve a local district.

Council Member Jones asked about the grants we can reapply for. Sigmon reviewed the grants that can be applied for including African American Civil Rights, History of Equal Rights, and others.

Council Member Lawton asked if the committee would continue. Council Member Pearson stated the committee will continue to meet.

Council Member Pearson made a motion to approve the Garfield Green Street area to be nominated to be a national historic district. Council Member Wasson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Receive the annual Downtown Statesville Development Corporation report. (Pierce)

Pierce provided the annual review for the DSDC and provided an update on the plan of work. In the past year, 9 new business and 39 new jobs.

DSDC Board would like the City Councils thoughts on Volunteer Engagement and Downtown Investment.

Council Member S. Johnson stated that he had these plan of work updates in mind. He believes the vegetation could look better than it does.

Council Member Pearson stated that Pierce has a list of things that need to be fixed. Her question is whether the volunteer engagement age range and maybe the schools can help.

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjournment

Mayor Kutteh asked for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Jones made a motion to adjourn. Council Member J. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.