

**CITY OF NORTHWEST
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022
6:00 PM**

ASSEMBLY

The Northwest City Council held their special meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:00 PM, at Northwest City Hall, 4889 Vernon Road.

Present: James Knox, Mayor; Councilmen: Michael Troy, Sylvester Ballard, and Councilwoman Alexis Clemmons

Absent was: Councilwoman Sheila Grady and Councilwoman Charles Carroll

Also present: Donna Strickland, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION

Mayor Knox called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Councilman Michael Troy gave the invocation.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEM

A. Cemeteries

With the recent two homicides in the City of Northwest, Council was petitioned by citizen and previous Councilman Foster McKoy, to create an ordinance preventing individuals from gathering in the cemeteries from dusk to dawn.

At this meeting the following was discussed:

- Adopt an ordinance preventing trespassing in cemeteries from dusk to dawn
- Create a penalty for the trespassing and loitering in cemeteries from dusk to dawn
- Create an exception that would allow a person to apply for a permit to hold a vigil gathering at a gravesite
- Create a contract with Churches or individuals who own cemeteries giving the City permission to enforce the no trespassing in a cemetery during the hours from dusk to dawn
- Churches and individuals that own a cemetery will need to have signs posted saying no trespassing from dusk to dawn (the City of Northwest will have the signs made and the Churches or individuals will put the signs up)
- Find out what Churches would purchase cameras to be placed in the cemeteries
- Look into creating a Community Watch program and posting Community Watch signs

It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to immediately have Interim Police Chief Perez to start patrolling the Cemeteries and implement keeping a log of the date and time the Cemeteries are patrolled and provide the log to Council at their regular Council meeting each month.

It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to immediately have Interim Police Chief Perez contact Brunswick County Sheriff, and request that Deputies that are on duty when the City of Northwest does not have an Officer on duty, patrol the Cemeteries.

Councilwoman Alexis Clemmons **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Michael Troy to have the City Clerk contact Santana Miller, City Attorney, to create an ordinance for Council to adopt that will prevent trespassing and loitering in cemeteries from dusk to dawn. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilwoman Alexis Clemmons **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Sylvester Ballard to have the City Clerk contact Santana Miller, City Attorney, to create an ordinance that will state the penalty for the trespassing and loitering in the cemeteries from dusk to dawn. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

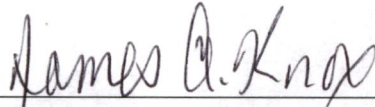
It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to have the City Clerk work with the City Attorney in developing an exception in the ordinance for a permit that would allow for a vigil gathering at a gravesite.

It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to have the City Clerk work with the City Attorney establishing the wording for the signs that will be posted in the cemeteries.

Mayor Knox stated that he thought this was a good start and he hopes that the other Churches will come to the next meeting that will take place with the City Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Alexis Clemmons **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Sylvester Ballard to continue this meeting to Thursday, April 28th at 6:00 PM. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**


James A. Knox, Mayor


Donna Strickland, City Clerk/Finance Officer