

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL HELD
APRIL 30, 2018**

The Mayor and Council of the City of Goldsboro, North Carolina, recessed from a Special Meeting on April 25, 2018 to meet on April 30, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the Large Conference Room on the second floor of the City Hall Addition, 200 North Center Street Goldsboro, NC with attendance as follows:

Present: Mayor Chuck Allen, Presiding
Mayor Pro Tem David Ham
Councilmember Antonio Williams
Councilmember Bill Broadaway
Councilmember Mark Stevens
Councilmember Bevan Foster
Councilmember Gene Aycock

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Allen at 8:00 a.m.

Mayor Allen stated we had asked that Councilmember Williams provide proof of where he lives by Friday, April 27th and to my knowledge the only that has been turned in was a letter from his lawyer (Exhibit 1) late Friday afternoon.

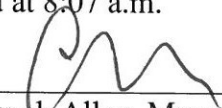
Councilmember Williams' Attorney, Jeff Loperfido spoke on behalf of Councilmember Williams. Mr. Loperfido stated Councilmember Williams does live in Goldsboro District 1. I am here seeking an opportunity to work with the City and City Attorney to provide substantiated information to delay the concerns of the Mayor and City Council about a legitimate concern about a residency requirement for a city official. Mr. Loperfido stated my client has legitimate safety concerns that we have identified in the letter. We would like to find a way where we can reach a mutually agreeable solution were the information is provided to the satisfaction of the Mayor and City Council while recognizing my client's safety concerns. Mr. Loperfido stated Councilmember Williams is an elected official and has due process rights.

Mr. Ron Lawrence, City Attorney stated if you have a person that has been elected that represents a district and no longer resides in that district, then the law itself says that seat is vacant as a matter of law. The issue is in determining the residency issue. The Board of Elections is an appropriate channel for that to take place. Any citizen can file a complaint to challenge voter registration. The Board of Elections would hold a hearing. Once that determination is made, if it is determined he is a resident of that district, then the issue is put to rest, if it determines he is not, Council may revisit the issue. The other option the city has is an "amotion proceeding." I think at this point, with the assurances of Councilmember Williams' attorney, give him an opportunity to provide that information.

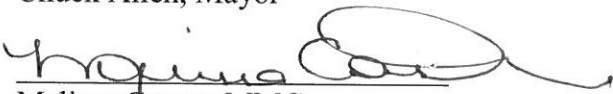
Mayor Allen reviewed the options with Council and suggested letting the attorneys work together and see what they come up with.

Mayor Allen stated Councilmember Williams you are putting us in a really bad spot. You either live in the district or you don't. No one wants to be here doing this. If you are worried about your safety, you are at the Ice Storm and you are a prominent figure in town. I think the citizens need to know how to contact you. Mayor Allen asked Councilmember Williams to come forward and fix this. No one here wants to be here doing this, I can promise you that.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 a.m.



Chuck Allen, Mayor



Melissa Corser, MMC
City Clerk



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 27, 2018

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Ms. Melissa Corser
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Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Corser and Members of the Goldsboro City Council,

We have been retained to represent Mr. Antonio Williams. Contrary to the accusations made in an anonymous letter submitted to the City Council on April 9, 2018, Mr. Williams satisfies all of the statutory requirements to serve in elected office for Goldsboro District 1, and any efforts to remove him from the office to which he was duly elected would subject the City to litigation.

First, as a threshold matter, we do not believe there is any support in the statutes for the arbitrary 48-hour timeline set by the City Council for our client to verify his residency. There is no legal basis for the undue speed with which this illegal action is proceeding, and it has prejudiced Mr. Williams' ability to take appropriate legal action. Nevertheless, we are prepared to confirm that Mr. Williams has resided in Goldsboro District 1 consistently since at least 2012.

When first elected in 2015 to represent Goldsboro District 1 on the City Council, Mr. Williams resided at 304 Wilmington Ave. He moved from that residence in late 2016 because of an uptick in serious criminal activity occurring near his home that went unaddressed by local law enforcement. Of note, on July 15, 2016, Mr. Williams's next-door neighbor was murdered in her home. Following this incident, Mr. Williams observed an increase in drug and gang-related activity in his neighborhood. Mr. Williams brought his safety concerns to the police chief, but received no meaningful assistance or support. Given the unsafe conditions around his home and the lack of protection offered by the police chief, Mr. Williams was compelled to leave for his own safety and for the safety of those close to him.

Moreover, because Mr. Williams has been vocal in identifying inappropriate behavior by the City's police chief, to the point of suggesting that the police chief should resign, he believes that the police chief is biased against him, will not act to protect him, and may act in a manner that may create an unsafe physical environment for Mr. Williams and his family.

Mr. Williams owns property at 143 N. Center Street in Goldsboro District 1. He has been renovating the property for years with the intention to make it habitable. He considers this address to be his permanent residence and intends to take up occupancy as soon as it would be legal for him to do so. This process has been prolonged by delays in receiving the requisite permits from the City for converting the second floor of his property into habitable living space. He keeps most of his clothes and all of his personal mementos there. His North Carolina state identification card lists that address and he receives his water bill at that address as well.

Because his Wilmington Ave. residence was no longer a safe place for him to live, he has been staying with relatives until his Center Street residence is ready for permanent occupancy. He has always considered this residency to be temporary, and does not have an assigned room in the home or any other indicators of permanent residency. To the extent it is relevant, and we do not concede that it is, we have confirmed that Mr. Williams's relatives' home, where he is currently staying, is also within Goldsboro District 1.

When Mr. Williams met with the city attorney on or about April 20, 2018, he confirmed that he did in fact reside in Goldsboro District 1 and communicated that his hesitance to reveal his relatives' address was out of his and their concern for their privacy and personal safety. The anonymous letter submitted that triggered this investigation was objectively threatening, as it states that the unnamed signatories "are watching" Mr. Williams and acknowledges over five attempts to confront him in person at his prior home address. Moreover, the police chief has already demonstrated an unwillingness to take efforts to secure Mr. Williams' physical safety. As the city attorney was questioning him on behalf of the City, Mr. Williams did not feel comfortable providing an address that could be shared with the council and possibly end up in the hands of those anonymous citizens threatening him.

While we have very serious concerns about the motivations for this inquiry, and whether the processes and procedures being employed by the City Council with respect to Mr. Williams comports with due process and other constitutional requirements, we would be happy to work with the city attorney to find a way to share Mr. Williams's relatives' address in a way that maintains the safety of his family and himself.

If the City intends to proceed in its current course of action and will not work with us to come up with a mutually agreeable solution, we will be forced to pursue a remedy in court. We believe on the facts available that in the course of litigation to quiet title to the elected office, we would be able to obtain a protective order to establish with confidentiality Mr. Williams's temporary residence. In that process, though, the City would likely assume significant legal costs and potentially be responsible for our attorneys' fees and costs as well.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We plan to follow up with the city attorney via telephone and be present at the city council meeting Monday morning if the City decides to pursue this matter.

Sincerely,

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