

TOWN OF GREENSBORO  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
May 16, 2019

Attendance: Mayor Reichart, Commissioners DeSimone and Harrison, Nicole Armour, Chief Lee, Bill Lesmerises, Sam Geib, Randy Robinson, Dave Kibler, Lyndsey Ryan.

Public: Cindi Harrison, Gary Wyatt, April Kinnish, Scott DeLude, Jada Hall, Kayla Nethken, Amber & Derek Korell, Desiray Korell, Hanna Fountain, Cathy Spencer, Rick Faust, Brandon Cunningham, Exquisite Basketball staff, Alice Winstead, Billy Gardner, Kenny Schmidt

Workshop was called to order at 7:00 pm

***Exquisite Basketball - Brandon Cunningham***

Mr. Cunningham stated that he has been with Exquisite Basketball for 3 years, they are a travel basketball team, and they teach the fundamentals of basketball to children, keep them active, and mentor them. He went on to say a lot of children can't afford the registration fee so they ask assistance from the community to help out with funding to assist with that, to help with payment for indoor gym time, and equipment needed throughout the year. He stated that they are coming out about \$1700 short this year. They do hold fundraisers as well to help with expenses. Com. Harrison stated that he and Mayor Reichart have been involved with community sports and understands their importance and need for assistance. Mayor Reichart asked Ms. Armour to look into the budget so that they could determine what they would be able to help with. Mayor Reichart thanked Mr. Cunningham for coming.

***Jada Hall – Certificate of Appreciation***

Ms. Armour stated that Jada had been a HUGE part of this year's Fishing Derby as in years past. This year she felt that Jada went above and beyond. Although she did get service learning hours she was in the office every day helping out no matter what. Ms. Armour mentioned that even after wrapping up the fishing derby she came in to help Sam with office stuff not getting anything in return. She stated that Jada would be an awesome mentor for other children in the community. She then presented Jada with a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift card as thanks from the Town.

***Amber Korell – Address Council***

Ms. Korell read a letter to the Council, which is attached hereto, regarding about how she felt about her termination of employment with the town. During her statement, Ms. Korell advised the Council of statements that were made to her by Commission Mack that she felt were inappropriate. In the letter she also thanked the residents and co-workers for making her time in Greensboro enjoyable and expressed how much she would miss them. Council thanked Ms. Korell for coming.

***GVFC – Rick Faust***

Mr. Faust stated that they did not have good attendance at the tractor pull due to the weather, but they would be having another one in September. He thanked Com. Mackey and Harrison for coming and helping cook. The carnival will begin on July 8<sup>th</sup> with fireworks on Tuesday. They still plan on having the Strawberry Festival as well. Mayor Reichart thanked Mr. Faust and the rest of the fire company for their help with the Fishing Derby.

***Town Manager Report:***

None

***Council Comments:***

Com. Harrison stated that he really wants to help out Exquisite Basketball. All of council agreed. Com. DeSimone thanked everyone for coming out to the Fishing Derby and stated that Mr. Noon sent his regrets for not being able to make it out. Ms. Spencer wanted to thank everyone for how the Fishing Derby turned out this year. Mayor Reichart thanked Mr. and Mrs. Spencer for all their help.

*Com. DeSimone motioned to move into Executive Session. Com. Harrison seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.*

Council moved into Executive Session at 7:26pm.

Council moved back into Regular Session at 8:16 pm.

Mayor Reichart stated that they discussed legal and personnel issues in Executive Session.

*Com. Harrison motioned to uphold the decision made in Executive Session. Com. DeSimone seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.*

*Com. DeSimone motioned to adjourn the meeting. Com. Harrison seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm

Respectfully Prepared by

Nicole Armour

Amber Korell

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May 16, 2019

Town of Greensboro Council,

This is an emotional moment for me as I like neither long nor short farewells. I hope all of you know I have given my best to this town.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents and employees of Greensboro! I adore all of you in your own unique way. During my 14 years as an employee of the town, interactions with residents made work feel like home. To my coworkers, I will always cherish our relationships as we have served to mentor each other, and have become close.

I came into this organization full of hope for a better future for the people of a Town like ours, which tends to lose in its bureaucracy. I accepted responsibility for the various duties assigned to me, which included: receptionist, data entry, interface with residents, generate water bills. As many of you are painfully aware, we have experienced some problems generating water bills for years. Many problems were due to faulty equipment, inadequate information from tech support and proper training of our new system.

Despite earning good performance evaluations, the beginning of the end for me began in November 2018.

Initially, I was suspended for two days in November due to a printing error while issuing shut off notices. I was advised; Comm. Mackey and Comm. Reichart were strongly behind me being reprimanded and suspended. I accepted the responsibility for my actions and made appropriate corrections. As far as I knew, I had complied and satisfied the town's legitimate expectations of me.

Then later, on November 28, 2018, while a coworker and I were discussing my last day of suspension, Comm. Mackey stopped into Town Hall. Comm. Mackey interjected himself into our conversation stating "that's right because you are a naughty girl". He proceeded to say "I had been a very bad girl and needed spankings", he asked me if he "should bend me over his knees and give me a spanking". I was totally upset, humiliated and extremely uncomfortable. I didn't know what to do, or how to respond as I needed my job. After Comm. Mackey left the office I asked my coworker if his comments seemed inappropriate, and they agreed.

I did not report this conversation at that time because I had just been suspended and was scared if I made mention of it they would retaliate and try to terminate me. Then in March Comm. Mackey visited Town Hall, as acting mayor. During this visit Comm. Mackey spoke about March being a difficult month. When I agreed with him, he asked if my problems were because of, my coworker, Nicole. I agreed that was a piece of it but I was not upset with her I was upset with the council. I stated I can't trust you guys and was very upset with their recent actions.

Specifically, I felt betrayed as the position that was offered to Nicole; at her exit interview, had been promised to me. Nicole was offered the Town Clerk position that I had been trying for, for 3 years. Feeling sad and betrayed that no one had the decency to discuss it with me, I went into depression. I didn't even know we had the money in the budget to promote anyone to Town Clerk right now. Comm. Mackey stated there were reasons behind their actions. He said I was very good with people so good it's bad. I was not sure how to interpret that comment. I feel as though Comm. Mackey had it out for me because I rejected his advances. Later, co-workers told me that Comm. Mackey had been looking for any and all mistakes that I make and he told Nicole to keep a log for the next two weeks. This really threw me for a loop, as the commissioners do not take any supervisory role as the commissioners have given all of their authority to Jeannette DeLude, Town Manager. So I was even more confused and scared. Prior to this, it has been policy that no one commissioner had any authority, traditionally; it takes a majority vote from the council.

My worst nightmare occurred the night of my termination, on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. On my day off of work I was summoned into an executive session, in my pajamas, without any prior notice, and given the choice to resign or be terminated, because "they're taking Town Hall in a new direction". Without any consideration or discussion I was terminated. Comm. Mackey mentioned several complaints, but I was never made aware of any, except the one that got me fired, from Joey Williamson.

In the last 14 years I would like to think of myself as a dedicated hard working employee, since day 1 I wanted to be the lady whom started fresh out of high school and retired from here. I wanted to see Greensboro through the bad times because I know there can be great times. I've enjoyed living and working in Greensboro and as much of a pain that water bills are I enjoyed that aspect of my job as well. Did I make mistakes? Yes and I corrected them and moved on, show me an employee who never made a mistake. I can tell you there are plenty in the office but no one hears of them. You know what else you don't hear any praise for, jobs well done or any positive remarks, you only hear the negative and they seem to focus on that. It can make it a difficult place to work especially with the double standards given to different employees in some circumstances.

Working in a hostile work environment, you are always on edge, walking on eggshells kind of atmosphere, it takes a toll on you. This year I was put on depression and anxiety medicine because I found myself overwhelmed.

I am vested here and I could have done great things in my career here. You stole that from me; and for a few weeks, you stole my spark for Greensboro. With Fishing Derby just past I'm reminded why I loved working for this community. I loved planning events, working them and watching these kids grow from little ones to teens, in the years I've been here. The residents of Greensboro have renewed my faith, as they have reached out to me with love, understanding and disgust at my treatment.

It's overwhelming heartwarming to know people of Greensboro feel this administration has made a poor decision.

Thank you, Amber Korell