

February 27, 2017

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in regular session at 4:00 p.m. in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building with Mayor David W. Combs presiding.

Councilmembers present: André D. Knight, Reuben C. Blackwell, IV, Lamont Wiggins, E. Lois Watkins, Tom Rogers, W. B. Bullock and Christine Carroll Miller.

Staff Present: Charles W. Penny, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Thomas M. Moton, Jr., Assistant City Manager; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Public Affairs Manager; Ken Graves; Director of Planning and Development; Rich Worsinger, Director of Energy Resources; Kim Weaver, Energy Services Manager; Rusty Owens, Utilities Operations Manager; Ronnie Raper, Assistant Fire Chief; Brad Kerr, Director of Engineering; Todd Gardner, Transit System Manager; Amy Staton, Director of Finance; Willie Boykin, Animal Services Supervisor; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officer: Retired Police Sergeant Stoney Battle.

Mayor Combs opened the meeting and prayer was offered by Councilmember Tom Rogers.

WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed citizens and directed them to copies of the agenda near the entrance of the City Council Chamber.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council held February 13, 2017 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Laura Gearhart of 6447 Autry Road (Friends of Rocky Mount Animal Shelter) reported the City changed its ordinance some years ago to require spaying/neutering which has reduced the number of animals in the shelter. She added that she is working with the Shelter in an effort to identify funding to create a spay/neuter mobile clinic and expand the medical care received at the shelter. She complimented the Animal Shelter staff for the work they are doing to place animals in homes.

2016 NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC POWER AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Mayor introduced Roy Jones, Chief Executive Officer of Electricities of North Carolina, Inc. Mr. Jones announced that Rocky Mount is one of only seven public power communities across North Carolina to receive the 2016 Public Power Awards of Excellence in all five categories. He stated the awards received honor outstanding efforts in the following categories: Competitive Business Environment; Energy Efficiency; Financial Stability; Legislative Involvement and Service Excellence.

Mr. Jones stated that unbelievable things are happening in Rocky Mount and he can't wait to come back next year. He congratulated the Council for the difference they are making in the community. He stated the CSX intermodal project will be a game changer.

Mr. Jones recognized and thanked the Mayor for his service on the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, Councilmember Wiggins for his service on the Board of the NCLM, Councilmember Knight for his service on the NCEMPA Board and City Manager Charles W. Penny and Rich Worsinger, Director of Energy Resources for their service as alternates on the NCEMPA Board.

Mr. Jones stated that he has known City Manager Charles W. Penny as a friend and leader and Mr. Penny will be missed. He wished the City Manager the best of luck in his retirement.

Mr. Jones presented the award plaques to the following staff members and he, Councilmember Knight, City Manager Charles W. Penny and Mayor David W. Combs joined them for a photograph: Director of Energy Resources Rich Worsinger; Energy Resources Operations Manager Rusty Owens; Energy Services Manager Kim Weaver; Finance Director Amy Staton; and Public Affairs Manager, Tameka Kenan-Norman. Mayor Combs congratulated Mr. Worsinger and his staff on receiving these prestigious awards.

AD VALOREM TAX RELEASES

The City Council received the following schedule of ad valorem taxes recommended for release and/or refund:

SCHEDULE A – taxes under \$100 approved for release and/or refund by the City Manager:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
<u>EDGEcombe COUNTY</u>				
2016	2085	SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	49.13	CITY
		C/O DEFAULT REAL ESTATE	4.91	PEN
		PO BOX 32452	1.49	INT
		CHARLOTTE, NC 28232		
		TOTAL RELEASE:	55.53	

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that Tax Release Schedule A recommended for release and/or refund be acknowledged and approved for release as recommended.

REZONING REQUEST/PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor noted that a public hearing relative to the following rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Board was held on February 13, 2017:

- request by Terry Wethington to rezone +/-4.59 acres at 4053 Sunset Avenue from B-1 & R-15 to B-2

Consideration of the rezoning was deferred until today's meeting due to a concern that no conditions have been offered relative to the rezoning. Council was advised that the following conditions are now being offered:

- all permitted land uses allowed with the exception of nightclub, bar and tavern
- A type C buffer shall be installed along all property lines adjacent to residential land uses and no reduction shall be permitted with the installation of a fence

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2017-12** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted, as amended.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

The City Council received the minutes from a Committee of the Whole meeting held February 13, 2017. The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE FREDERICK E. TURNAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

W. B. Bullock, Mayor Pro Tem
 Andre D. Knight
 Reuben C. Blackwell, IV*
 Lamont Wiggins*
 Lois Watkins
 Tom Rogers
 W.B. Bullock
 Chris Miller
 David W. Combs, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT:

Charles W. Penny
 Pamela O. Casey
 Tasha Logan Ford
 Thomas Moton, Jr.
 Tameka Kenan-Norman
 James Moore
 Mike Varnell
 Ron Raper
 Jamie Vaughn
 Donnie Daniels
 Ken Hunter
 Linda Jones
 George Robinson
 Michael Paul
 Marty Clay
 Brian McGrath
 Henry King
 Kim Batts
 Richard J. Rose

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem W.B. Bullock called the meeting to order, thanked all for their presence and stated that Committee of the Whole meetings are designed as working meetings for the City Council and the agenda does not include an opportunity for citizen petitions or questions.

He called on City Manager Charles W. Penny to introduce the agenda items.

The City Manager stated that in February staff presents public safety reports and the two items on today's agenda are receipt of the annual safety report from the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

Mr. Penny introduced Police Chief James Moore's wife, Kim, and daughter, Erica, and thanked them for visiting.

He introduced Police Chief James Moore to provide the Police Department safety report for his fifth time to be followed by Fire Chief Mike Varnell who will provide the Fire Department safety report.

1. PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE DEPARTMENT - Chief James Moore

Police Chief James Moore stated he has been with the City of Rocky Mount for five years. He thanked City Manager Charles W. Penny for his support of changes within the Police Department, some which were controversial. Chief Moore provided the City Council

with the 2016 Annual Rocky Mount Police Department Report and noted the cover shows Rocky Mount's female officers. He reported that Rocky Mount has more female officers than most municipalities.

Police Chief James Moore told the City Council that:

- Overall crime has declined for five consecutive years (the longest continuous drop on record);
- Crime is at the lowest level since 1977;
- Crime reductions consist of a 3% decrease in violent crime and a 9% decrease in property crime;
- Overall Part 1 crime decreased by 8%

Chief Moore provided information relative to the following:

- Crime trend numbers from 2006 through 2016 - reflecting a decrease in Violent, Property and Part 1 crimes;
- **Enforcement:**
 - Operation Big Show:
 - o spearheaded by the RMPD, N.C. Division of Community Corrections and the U.S. Marshals Service (others participating: NCSHP, ALE, Nash and Edgecombe County Sheriff's Offices);
 - o conducted in June 2016 to target violent offenders on probation;
 - o resulted in 95 high risk searches; arrest of 48 probation absconders; 54 individual arrests; and seizure of 6 firearms
 - Operation Blue Heat:
 - o joint warrant and narcotic operation conducted in June 2016 (RMPD and U.S. Marshals Service);
 - o resulted in arrest of 49 individuals with 132 charges and seizure of 7 firearms
 - Shotspotter:
 - o gun detection technology to help identify location of gun fire;
 - o allows for immediate response;
 - o serves as deterrent to illegal gun fire;
- **Investigations:**
 - Operation Summer's End:
 - o conducted in August 2016;
 - o inter-departmental operation involving personnel from all divisions;
 - o resulted in 36 arrests; 108 charges and seizure of 1 firearm
- **Focused Deterrent Violent Crimes:**
 - Reduction Call-In:
 - o through their probation officers, offenders were invited to a call-in where they were warned about consequences of re-offending;
 - o to date, over 80 career offenders have participated
 - o recidivism rate of about 20%
- **Traffic Enforcement:**
 - Data Driven Approach to Crime Through Traffic Safety:
 - o Addresses crime through use of traffic enforcement in high crime areas;
 - o Department conducted 6 operations resulting in 1103 citations; 453 written warnings and 80 verbal warnings
- **Community Outreach:**
 - Egg-xtra Special Hunt:
 - o RMPD partnered with the Harrison Family YMCA to host an Easter egg hunt for school-aged children with special needs (appearances by Easter Bunny and McGruff Crime Dog)

- Coffee with a Cop:
 - o RMPD partnered with various churches for informal, open dialogue
- Lunch with a Cop:
 - o Officers joined students at various elementary schools for lunch
- National Night Out Against Crime:
 - o Brought back in 2012
 - o 20 neighborhoods hosted event with RMPD to promote crime prevention
- Pack a Patrol Car:
 - o RMPD partnered with Piggly Wiggly to collect food, including 25 turkeys, for those in need;
 - o Groceries distributed at Thanksgiving and Christmas to victims of Hurricane Matthew and others identified by social organizations

Chief Moore reported that the City is committed to providing the RMPD with the tools and technology necessary to enhance policing efforts. He noted substantial investment was made in 2016 in the following technologies:

- Body Worn Cameras
- 911 Consoles
- In-car Printers
- Police Software
- Building Security; and
- Digital Radios

The Chief reported that use of force and citizen complaints have declined. He stated the men and women of the RMPD are performing outstanding policing.

He outlined the following employee development efforts:

- Procedural Justice for Supervisors;
- Crisis Intervention Training for Officers and Telecommunications;
- FBI Law Enforcement Executive Leadership Association Training;
- Administrative Officers Management Program (NC State University);
- PERF's Senior Management Institute for Police;
- West Point Leadership Program;
- Police Law Institute;
- Smith System Distracted Driver Training;
- Electronic Impulse Device Update Training;
- Internal Affairs Investigators Training; and
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace

Other items of interest included:

- Procedural Justice for Law Enforcement training: (focuses on respect, legitimacy, fairness and how to implement those concepts in the work place and community);
- False Alarm Reduction Program; and
- Vehicle Break-in Report Cards

Chief Moore concluded by reporting:

- in 2015 the City had a 16% reduction in violent crime as well as a 15% reduction in property crimes; and a total reduction in overall Part 1 Crime of 16% (lowest in 39 years);
- in 2016 the City had the lowest violent crimes since 1989; and
- overall crime rate has declined in five consecutive years and is currently at its lowest since 1977

A copy of the 2016 annual report is on file in the office of the City Clerk. Chief Moore reported that he is encouraged by these reductions in crime demonstrating an ongoing partnership between the community and the men and women of the Rocky Mount Police Department. He responded to questions posed by Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Report only. No action.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY - FIRE DEPARTMENT - Chief Michael Varnell

City Manager Charles W. Penny introduced Fire Chief Michael Varnell to present the fire safety report. Chief Varnell provided the City Council with the 2016 Rocky Mount Fire Department Annual Report and advised the Council of the following Public Education and Community Outreach efforts:

• **Community Outreach:**

- Williford Leadership Council
 - o 6th year of program
 - o Local leaders
 - o Senator Angela Bryant (Legislative Day)
- Rocky Mount High School Firefighters Certification Program (4th year; goal to reach inner city; City donated surplus fire pumper to school)
- Northern Nash High School Firefighters Explorer Club (5 or 6 employees spend one day a month with students; work with 35-40 young people; at end of year bring to fire station)
- Boys & Girls Club (homework help and mentoring)
- Citizens Fire Academy (recently hired an attendee of the Citizens Academy)
- Community Outreach:
 - o United Way Support: \$19,534 (25.6% of total CRM contribution);
 - o CRM Needy Family Support: \$1,635 (37% of total CRM contribution)

• **Professional Development:**

- Aspiring Officer Development
- Certified Peer Fitness Trainer
- Curt Varone / Fair Labor Standards, Managing Disciplinary Actions
- Eastern NC Senior Fire Officer Leadership (9 firefighters completed; goal for all 12 fire command staff to complete)
- Fire Rescue Management Institute / UNC Charlotte (1 firefighter attends each year)
- National Fire Academy / EFO, MFO, SO (35 strong in officer training)
- NC Breathing Equipment Firefighters Survival School
- NC Thermal Imaging School
- Smith Drivers Classes (all drivers complete)

• **Grant:**

- Buckle Up for Life (from Toyota - July 2016-June 2017)
 - o 5 classes taught thus far / 55 contacts made
 - o 100 seats purchased initially
 - o 97 seats distributed to date
 - o 115 additional seats purchased in January (2017 to complete grant cycle)
 - o Classes currently scheduled through March 2017

Chief Varnell outlined the annual call volume as follows:

- 2014 - 9,544
- 2015 - 10,350
- 2016 - 10,549

He provided information relative to calls by station and total response time performance (well within industry best within 8 minutes) reporting the Department responds to about 100 structure fires per year. Chief Varnell added there has been an increase in movement to the west. He reported that civilian fatalities in 2016 were zero and there has been a drastic improvement in property saved, particularly due to the percentage of fires confined to the room of origin.

Chief Varnell told the Council that:

- staff is highly trained in rescue and EMS and responded to 7718 calls in 2014; 8478 calls in 2015 and 8616 calls in 2016; and
- the save rate for cardiac arrest (no pulse/no breathing) has increased from 6% in 2014 to 19.5% in 2016 due to excellent training and distribution and community training on defibrulators

Chief Varnell responded to Council questions. The Fire Department annual is on file in the City Clerk's office.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Report only. No action.

Councilmember Blackwell requested Council be provided with a reports from both Fire and Police focused on diversity recruitment, pathways to leadership and plans, successes, failures and opportunities.

City Manager Charles W. Penny reported the City is in the process of identifying a consultant to prepare an updated pay plan which will likely be completed in 2018.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for the Committee of the Whole, Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that the minutes from the Committee of the Whole be approved.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS/RECORDS

The City Council was provided with an amendment to Chapter 8 of the City Code entitled "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION", Article II. Fire Marshal's Office, Sec. 8-29. Reports and records to move from a written record of compliance to a web-based recording service to enable a more efficient process for tracking and ensure compliance.

Assistant Fire Chief Ronnie Raper was called on to explain the amendment in further detail.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. **O-2017-13** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION"** be adopted.

Councilmember Wiggins requested that the Council be provided additional information once the process is implemented.

GRANT APPLICATION/CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTRE

The City Council received a request from the Parks and Recreation Department for approval of a grant contract with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in connection with the North Carolina Science Museum Grant Program in the amount of \$76,912.92 for expenses related to the rental, shipment and installation of traveling exhibits on display in the Children's Museum and Science Centre throughout FY 2017.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the grant application be approved; that the Mayor, Finance Director and City Clerk be authorized to execute same and any subsequent documents on behalf of the City; and that the following budget ordinance be adopted:

- **Ordinance No. O-2017-14** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 FOR NC SCIENCE MUSEUM GRANT.**

DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

The City Council received an ordinance ordering the Community Code Inspector to proceed with demolition of the following substandard property:

- 731/733 Henna Street

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2017-15** entitled **ORDINANCE ORDERING THE COMMUNITY CODE INSPECTOR TO PROCEED TO DEMOLISH CERTAIN DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES PURSUANT TO THE HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

AUDIT CONTRACT

The City Council received a proposal from Martin Starnes & Associates to perform the Fiscal Year 2017 audit at a cost of \$49,575, an increase of \$2,375 from the prior year. The City Council was advised that the firm has performed the audit for the past ten years and has provided excellent service both during the audit engagement and during the year as assistance is required related to financial matters.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the proposal of Martin Starnes & Associates be accepted and that the Mayor and Director of Finance be authorized to execute the audit contract **(C-2017-8)** on behalf of the City.

CHANGE ORDER/STREET RESURFACING FY 2015

The City Council received Change Order No. 1 on a contract with Barnhill Contracting Company for FY 2015 Street Resurfacing to add additional street sections to the current resurfacing contract. The Council was advised the change order in the amount of

\$568,479.55 adds 2.38 miles of streets to the contract including reconstruction of Arrington Avenue, makes an adjustment for net overruns in the base contract associated with the addition of Amos and Blanche Streets and for soil stabilization on Recreation Drive. The Council was further advised that the change order authorizes a project contingency of \$30,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the change order be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City. The change order will be placed on file in the City Clerk's office with the initial bid contract with Barnhill Contracting Company **(BD-2015-29)**.

FY 2017 TRANSIT GRANTS/NORTH CAROLINA DOT

Assistant City Manager Tasha Logan Ford provided the City Council with the required documentation and certifications, including the grant agreement, relative to FY 2017 Transit Grant Agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration and the SFY 2018 Community Transportation Program (CTP) grant application.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that Transit staff be authorized to submit the grant application(s) and accept said grant(s); that the Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk be authorized to execute the required documentation and certification(s), including any required subsequent documentation, on behalf of the City.

BIDS/FOUR (4) 2017 FORD UTILITY POLICE INTERCEPTORS

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase four (4) 2017 Ford Utility Police Interceptors from the North Carolina Sheriff's Association Vehicle Bid 17-03-0912 for Specification #92. Council was advised that the North Carolina Sheriff's Association is a competitive bidding group that offers a formally organized program, which offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(3). Bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2017-6**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Ashville Ford Lincoln, LLC at a per vehicle cost of \$28,991.26 for a total cost of \$115,965.04 based on the North Carolina Sheriff's Association Bid 17-03-0912 and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

BID/STREET AND AREA LIGHT FIXTURE REPLACEMENTS

The City Council received the tabulation of bids received for street and area light fixture replacements. Bids were received and opened on January 19, 2017 after all necessary legal procedures had

been implemented and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2017-7**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the bid for street and area light fixture replacements be awarded to American Lighting & Signalization at a total cost of \$452,640 and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

APPOINTMENTS

No action was taken to fill the vacancies on the Braswell Memorial Library Board, the STEP Board or the Tar River Transit Governing Board.

CLOSED SESSION

The Mayor requested a Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter, to follow immediately after a photograph of the Council is taken.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Bullock and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 4:44 p.m. for the purpose stated. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as ESM-463 at the end of Minute Book No. 33 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION

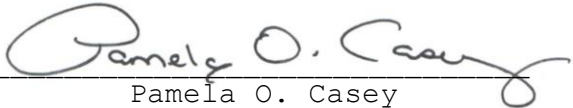
The Mayor convened the meeting in regular session at 6:10 p.m.

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSOCIATES/CITY MANAGER SEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins, and unanimously carried to engage the firm Developmental Associates to assist in the City Manager search and assessment at a cost not to exceed \$19,825.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the City Council adjourned at 6:11 p.m.


Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk