

April 10, 2017

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in regular session at 7:00 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: Stephen W. Raper, Interim City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Tasha Logan Ford and Thomas M. Moton, Jr., Assistant City Managers; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Public Affairs Manager; Ken Graves; Director of Planning and Development; Nicki Gurganus, Accounting Manager; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Todd Gardner, Transit System Manager; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officer: Police Sergeant William Mayfield.

Mayor Combs opened the meeting and prayer was offered by Councilmember W. B. Bullock.

#### **WELCOME**

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

He welcomed former City Manager and Interim City Manager, Stephen W. Raper and thanked him for serving the City in the interim position following the retirement of City Manager, Charles W. Penny.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council held March 27, 2017 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

#### **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Combs opened the meeting for petitions from the public.

**Bronson Williams** of 611 Hargrove Street welcomed former City Manager and Interim City Manager Stephen W. Raper back to the City team. He expressed appreciation to Police Chief James Moore for expeditiously rectifying a recent problem.

#### **FAIR HOUSING MONTH**

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2017 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Rocky Mount. The Mayor presented the Proclamation to Human Relations Director Archie Jones and Human Relations Commission member, Ralph E. "Steve" Stephenson. Mr. Stephenson noted that he is also the chairman of the State Human Relations Commission. The Mayor and Interim City Manager joined Mr. Jones and Mr. Stephenson for a photograph.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)**

The Mayor presented a Proclamation proclaiming the week of April 17-22, 2017 as Community Development Week in the City of Rocky Mount to Planning Director Ken Graves and joined him for a photograph.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: (recommended for adoption)**

- 1. Ordinance No. O-2017-34 entitled GRANT PROJECT AMENDMENT/FY 2017 RURAL TRANSIT OPERATING PROJECT; and
- 2. Ordinance No. O-2017-35 entitled GRANT PROJECT AMENDMENT/FY 2017 RURAL TRANSIT CAPITAL PROJECT.

**B. TEMPORARY STREET CLOSING (recommended for approval):**

- Request by Pastor Mack E. Battle, on behalf of East End Baptist Church, for permission to close the 900 block of East Highland Avenue (from the corner of Coleman to the corner of Magnolia) from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, 2017 for the church's Easter Community Celebration.

**C. AD VALOREM TAX RELEASES**

**SCHEDULE A - acknowledge receipt of report of the following 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>NASH COUNTY</u>					
2011	574	ADVANTAGE TAX INC ATTN DEBRA STATON 1589 SKEET CLUB RD STE 102 HIGH POINT, NC 27265-8818	45.70 4.57 24.38	CITY PEN INT	BILLED IN ERROR ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION 8/25/10
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>74.65</b>		
2012	597	ADVANTAGE TAX INC ATTN DEBRA STATON 1589 SKEET CLUB RD STE 102 HIGH POINT, NC 27265-8818	44.47 17.57	CITY INT	BILLED IN ERROR ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION 8/25/10
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>62.04</b>		
2013	596	ADVANTAGE TAX INC ATTN DEBRA STATON 1589 SKEET CLUB RD STE 102 HIGH POINT, NC 27265-8818	43.55 13.28	CITY INT	BILLED IN ERROR ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION 8/25/10
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>56.83</b>		
2014	731	ADVANTAGE TAX INC ATTN DEBRA STATON 1589 SKEET CLUB RD STE 102 HIGH POINT, NC 27265-8818	41.90	CITY	BILLED IN ERROR ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION 8/25/10
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>41.90</b>		
2015	652	ADVANTAGE TAX INC ATTN DEBRA STATON 1589 SKEET CLUB RD STE 102 HIGH POINT, NC 27265-8818	42.83 4.28 5.89	CITY PEN INT	BILLED IN ERROR ADMINISTRATIVE DISSOLUTION 8/25/10
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>53.00</b>		
2015	1000321	KEA ERIC LAFONZA 101 BUNCH CIR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	77.68 7.77 10.04	CITY PEN INT	BILLED IN ERROR
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>95.49</b>		

**SCHEDULE B - approve release and/or refund of the following taxes over \$100:**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>		<u>COMMENT</u>
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>					
2015	1000320	KEA ERIC LAFONZA 101 BUNCH CIR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	91.35 18.27 12.88	CITY PEN INT	BILLED IN ERROR
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>122.50</b>		
2016	1000361	PINE STATE ICEHOUSES LLC ATTN TERRY LOWERY 503 KEMPTON DR GREENVILLE, NC 27834	413.48 206.74 12.59	CITY PEN INT	BILLED IN ERROR DUPLICATE BILL
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>632.81</b>		
2016	1000360	PINE STATE ICEHOUSES LLC ATTN TERRY LOWERY 503 KEMPTON DR GREENVILLE, NC 27834	451.35 270.81 14.67	CITY PEN INT	BILLED IN ERROR DUPLICATE BILL
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>736.83</b>		

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the recommendations relative to the Consent Agenda items be approved inclusive of approval of the street closing, tax releases and adoption of the Ordinances contained therein.

**PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

The City Council received the minutes and recommendations from a Planning Board meeting held March 14, 2017. The minutes are on file in the office of the City Clerk. The following action was taken upon the recommendations of the Planning Board.

**REZONING REQUEST/PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor David W. Combs called on Planning Director Ken Graves to give an overview of the following rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Board:

- request by Robert Pridgen to rezone +/-12.96 acres at 1750 Meadowbrook Road from A-1 to R-6MFA

Mr. Graves reported that the property is heir property and the petitioner desires to increase the density to make the property more marketable.

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing and no one from the public appeared relative to the rezoning request. The Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2017-36** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

**REZONING REQUEST/1545 SOUTH CHURCH STREET**

The Mayor announced that on January 11, 2017 a public hearing was held with regard to the following rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the

Planning Board on December 13, 2016 and the matter was referred back to the Planning Board and thereafter re-recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan February 14, 2017:

- request by Ibrahim Hasan Odeh to rezone ±0.34 acres at 1545 South Church Street from I-2 to B-5

He added that an additional public hearing was held on March 13, 2017 and action deferred until tonight's meeting. The Mayor stated the Human Relations Department was tasked to have conversations with businesses and the community on what is taking place in businesses owned by members of the Middle Eastern community inside African American communities and report to Council.

Human Relations Director Archie Jones reported that efforts have been made to resolve community concerns, however, there are still a number of unresolved concerns and fears. He told the City Council that another meeting is scheduled with the community.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Rogers unanimously carried that this matter be deferred until the May 8, 2017 meeting of the City Council.

**CONDITIONAL USE REZONING REQUEST/725 SOUTH CHURCH STREET**

Consideration of the following conditional use rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Board was deferred on March 13, 2017 until the April 10, 2017 meeting, following a public hearing:

- request by Hassan Shehadeh to rezone ±0.37 acres at 725 South Church Street from I-2 to B-5CU

The City Council was advised that Human Relations' staff has met with the owner and potential operator and the petitioner has agreed that the following allowable operations permitted under the B-5 zoning be removed from the request and be prohibited:

- Alcoholic beverages, packaged, retail store, including ABC store;
- Adult establishment
- Boardinghouse operation
- Flea market (indoor or outdoor)
- Nightclub, bar & tavern
- Salvage operation or junk yard

Human Relations Director Archie Jones told the City Council that at the South Rocky Mount Community Neighborhood Association on April 3, 2017 residents agreed that the 725 S. Church Street re-zoning would serve the community in a positive manner and voiced no objections to the re-zoning. It was noted that should the operation goes as expected, the petitioner does intend to apply for alcohol sales at a future date.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that the requested rezoning from I-2 to B-5CU be approved, with the amended conditional uses, and that **Ordinance No. O-2017-37** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** and **Resolution No. R-2017-12** entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR HASSAN SHEHADEH** be adopted, as amended.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

The City Council received the minutes from a Special Called Committee of the Whole meeting held March 27, 2017. The minutes are as follows:

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 AT 2:00 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  
 Chris Miller  
 David W. Combs, Mayor

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Charles W. Penny  
 Pamela O. Casey  
 Tasha Logan Ford  
 Thomas Moton, Jr.  
 Tameka Kenan-Norman  
 Brad Kerr\*\*  
 Amy Staton  
 Nicki Gurganus\*\*  
 Ken Graves\*\*  
 Rich Worsinger\*\*  
 Rusty Owens\*\*  
 Richard J. Rose

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

R. L. Willoughby, Power Services\*\*  
 Kiel Blanton, Power Services\*\*  
 Mary Nash Rusher, Hunton & Williams, LLP\*

\*\*Present in Open Session only

**OPENING OF MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem W.B. Bullock called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. He thanked all for their presence and stated Committee of the Whole meetings are designed as working meetings for the City Council, thereby the agenda does not include an opportunity for citizen petitions or questions. He requested that any questions be held until after the meeting.

**WHOLESALE ELECTRIC RATE PRESENTATION - Rich Worsinger**

The Mayor Pro Tem called on City Manager Charles W. Penny to introduce the agenda items. Mr. Penny told the City Council that today they will hear good news relative to a wholesale electric rate adjustment. He invited Energy Resources Director, Rich Worsinger, to share details of the rate adjustment.

Mr. Worsinger told the Council that it was important that Mr. Penny be at today's presentation to share in this good news at the end of his tenure. He introduced R. L. Willoughby and Kiel Blanton with Power Services and Energy Resources Operations Manager, Rusty Owens. Mr. Worsinger introduced R. L. Willoughby of Power Services to assist in bringing a report.

Mr. Willoughby and Mr. Worsinger presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following main points:

- 2017 POWER COSTS PROJECTION UPDATE:
  - Review of the 2015 Wholesale Power Cost Decrease
    - o July 2015 - NCEMPA: finalized sale of Generation Assets
    - o September 2015 - Rocky Mount: realized a 14% retail rate reduction
    - o January 2017 - Duke: projects reduced costs due to market price of natural gas; NCEMPA: members voted to reduce wholesale power costs; Rocky Mount: realized wholesale power cost decrease (4.4%)
    - o 2017 NCEMPA Wholesale Power Cost Decrease
  - The following graphs were provided and explained:
    - o NCEMPA 2015 vs. 2017 projected wholesale power costs (debt will be paid in 2026)

- o NCEMPA 2017 projected wholesale power cost components
- o Rocky Mount Retail Changes (2015 vs. 2017) based on NCEMPA wholesale projections (had expected 3% increase in 2017 and every year into the foreseeable future)
- Proposed City of Rocky Mount Retail Rate Changes
  - o Today proposing a 5% decrease as of July 2017 and do not foresee a retail rate increase until July 2029 (12 years) based on projections by Duke and the Power Agency (subject to change); still have some numbers to crunch
  - o Outline of Rocky Mount Retail Rate provided showing changes (proposal for passing along savings to customers):
    - Residential Energy:
      - ❖ Energy / -3%
    - Small General Service (small business):
      - ❖ Energy - 1<sup>st</sup> 750 / -7%
      - ❖ Energy - next 1250 / -7%
      - ❖ Energy - ≥2000 / -7%
    - Medium General Service (larger commercial operations, chain restaurants, big box stores):
      - ❖ 1-ph facilities charge / +52%
      - ❖ 3-ph facilities charge / +32%
      - ❖ Energy / -9%
    - General Seasonal Service (farmers):
      - ❖ No meaningful impact; analysis not complete
    - Large General Service (currently 16 customers; significant reductions):
      - ❖ Energy / -12%
      - ❖ Demand / -3%
    - Industrial (currently 9 customers); decrease will make the City more competitive and attractive to potential new businesses; incents operation of generators):
      - ❖ Facilities charge / +61%
      - ❖ Energy / -16%
      - ❖ Demand - utility peak / +12%
      - ❖ Demand - excess city / -15%
      - ❖ Demand - additional / -3%
    - Electric System Impact Fee:
      - ❖ Energy Change / +19%
- Proposed Load Management Switch Program Changes
  - o Residential Load Management Switch Program
    - Wholesale Power Cost: based on monthly energy and demand
      - ❖ Energy: # kWh City buys each month
      - ❖ Demand: maximum City uses during peak hours each month
    - Reduced Peak - reduced wholesale power cost
    - Share savings with customers who reduce their demand during the peak (3 ways):
      1. Water heater: current credit - \$2/month
        - Cycled off during load management periods
        - Water in tank remains hot and available for use
        - Customers will not notice
      2. Air conditioner: current credit - \$20/month, 3 cooling season months
        - Compressor turned off during load management period;
        - Fan continues to circulate cool air
        - Customers may notice
      3. Heat Strip: current credit - \$15/month, 3 heating season months
        - Heat strips controlled during winter load management periods
        - Compressors continue to provide heat

- Customers will not notice

Mayor Combs stated that he sometimes receives questions relative to using solar power and asked why that does not work well in Rocky Mount. Mr. Worsinger responded that the City buys its power from the Power Agency and, therefore, does not offer the financial incentives that Duke offers, though it does offer some programs.

Mr. Worsinger provided the Council with proposed management credits as follows:

Load Management	Credits (annual)		Change
	Current	Proposed	
Water heater control	-\$24.00	-\$90.00	275%
Air conditioner control	-\$60.00	-\$60.00	0%
Heat strip control	-\$45.00	-\$75.00	67%
TOTAL	-\$129.00	-\$225.00	74%

He explained the savings using load management switches is approximately 2 months electric usage for customers using 200 kWh hours and provided a sample of a monthly residential bill based on a typical residential customer with monthly usage of 1,000 kWh. The Council was advised that the City will work to promote use of load management switches.

Mr. Worsinger expressed his delight in receiving this unexpected great news of a wholesale electric rate decrease.

The City Manager shared his enthusiasm and stated that for many years Rocky Mount has dealt with high utility costs and the gap with Duke Energy has now closed. He stated the City will be sharing this good news with the public.

(Mr. Worsinger and PowerServices representatives left the meeting).

*A printed copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk.*

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Report only. No action.**

**DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY FACILITY - SITE PLAN PRESENTATION - Tasha Logan Ford and Brad Kerr**

City Manager Charles W. Penny called on Assistant City Manager Tasha Logan Ford for a site plan presentation of the DCF.

Brad Kerr, Director of Engineering, provided and explained a map of the site showing the footprint of the building and parking (permanent and during construction - 307 permanent spaces/5,000 spaces within 1500 feet). He indicated there will be a charge for parking. Mrs. Ford discussed the timing of construction including demolition, the groundbreaking, asbestos abatement (Pemberton, Stokes and Hunter Odom properties) and the building process.

She added that a meeting is planned for Tuesday, March 28, with residents and business tenants in the Douglas Block at the Booker T Theater and that conversations with St. James AME Zion Church relative to parking are ongoing.

\*Councilmember Wiggins arrived.

\*Mary Nash Rusher arrived.

Council was advised additional satellite parking will be available. Mrs. Ford noted that the site plan will be placed on the City's website to be publicly available and shared with Council via OneDrive.

\*Councilmember Blackwell arrived.

The City Manager shared that staff in the process of working on the budget and reviews should conclude this week. He said consideration

will need to be given to the tax rate (currently 60.5¢) due to the recent tax revaluations. He said in order to bring a revenue neutral budget an increase to 64¢ will be required. He reminded the Council that a 2¢ increase was previously recommended relative to the DCF, making the recommended tax rate 66¢. He added that he is not recommending the additional 2¢ increase attributable to the DCF at this time and is hopeful the City will experience growth and the additional increase will not be necessary. He added that a 1¢ increase prior to the revaluation equated to \$380,000, but now would be \$360,000.

Mayor Combs stated that people do not understand that tax rate and market rate have nothing to do with each other.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Report only. No action.**

**CLOSED SESSION.** The City Manager requested a Closed Session for matters involving economic development and attorney-client privilege.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 3:18 p.m. to discuss matters involving economic development and attorney-client privilege.**

The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as **ESM-464** at the end of **Minute Book 33** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGULAR SESSION/RECESS.** The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee in regular session at 4:00 p.m. and recessed the meeting for the regular scheduled City Council meeting, with the COW to reconvene immediately thereafter.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECONVENED.** The Mayor Pro Tem reconvened the Committee of the Whole in regular session at 4:30 p.m.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. By consensus, the Council returned to closed session at 4:39 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee in regular session at 5:15 p.m. and there being no further business for the Committee of the Whole adjourned the meeting.

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

**TAXICAB LICENSE/ADDITIONAL APPLICATION**

The City Council received a recommendation from the Chief of Police for the issuance of one (1) additional taxi cab right to Otis T. Battle, Jr.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that an additional taxi permit be approved for issuance to Otis T. Baker, Jr. as recommended by the Chief of Police.



**DEMOLITION ORDINANCE**

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

- 511 S. Washington Street

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2017-38** 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.

**ASSESSMENTS/HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT**

The City Council received the preliminary assessment roll prepared to recover costs incurred by the City in connection with Housing Code Enforcement on the following properties:

- a. 1401 Branch Street
- b. 2601 S. Church Street
- c. 721 E. Grand Avenue
- d. 409 Madison Street
- e. 723 Pender Street
- f. 257 Rose Street
- g. 731 Sunset Avenue
- h. 920 Sunset Avenue

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that receipt of the preliminary assessment roll be acknowledged; that **Resolution No. R-2017-13** entitled **RESOLUTION OF DETERMINATION OF COST OF REPAIR/DEMOLITION OF SUBSTANDARD HOUSING AND STRUCTURES** and **Resolution No. R-2017-14** entitled **RESOLUTION OF PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL** be adopted; and that a public hearing on the assessments be scheduled for May 8, 2017.

**ENGINEERING SERVICES TASK ORDER/HIGH SERVICE PUMP NO. 2 REPLACEMENT**

The City Council was provided with Task Order No. 3 on a contract with L. E. Wooten & Company d/b/a The Wooten Company for engineering services to add replacement of high service pump No. 2 at the Sunset Avenue Water Treatment Plant at a cost of \$68,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that Task Order No. 3 with L. E. Wooten & Company d/b/a The Wooten Company be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the Task Order on behalf of the City. Task Order No. 3 will be filed with the original contract (**C-2015-15**) in the office of the City Clerk.

**CONVEYANCE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY/PUBLIC PURPOSE**

Assistant City Manager Tasha Logan Ford informed the City Council that the WODA Groups, Inc. needs additional acreage to aid in the design and development of the proposed eighty (80) units to be constructed for Ravenwood Crossing. She reported that the additional lots will provide for stormwater management and will not be developed for any future construction. The Council was provided with an agreement with the WODA Group relative to the transfer of Lots 6 and 7 located off Ravenwood

Drive to Preservation Rocky Mount and a resolution authorizing the conveyance of City owned real estate for the support of an affordable housing project. Ms. Ford recommended conveyance to Preservation Rocky Mount to be used for public purposes pursuant to NCGS §160A-279.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2017-15** entitled **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE TO AID AND SUPPORT AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT ON RAVENWOOD DRIVE** be adopted. This Resolution approves donation of the properties listed above and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the deed(s) transferring the property to Preservation Rocky Mount on behalf of the City, subject to legal review and publication of the required public notice.

**GRANT-ROCKY MOUNT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION/CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER**

Assistant City Manager Thomas Moton, Jr. advised the City Council that staff is seeking approval for the submission of a grant to the Rocky Mount Community Foundation for \$25,000 for the purchase and development of new interactive exhibit components that will allow visitors to explore the science and technology that veterinarians use through role play. He added that the exhibit will become a permanent exhibit of the Children's Museum and Science Center.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that staff be authorized to submit the grant application on behalf of the City.

**MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HIGHWAY SIGNS**

The City Council was provided with an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) relative to funding estimated at \$20,000 for the design, fabrication and installation of two signs renaming a section of US 64 from I-95 (Exit 464) to E. Raleigh Boulevard (Exit 472) as Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (WBS Elements: 4SP.10641.15) (**C-2017-14**) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same and any related documentation required on behalf of the City.

**TEMPORARY EASEMENT/PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS**

The City Council was provided with a compensation agreement (\$1,500) with Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (PNG) for acquisition of a temporary construction easement comprising of 130 square feet (0.003 acres) across a city-owned parcel of land in Whitakers near the CDC Sewer Pump Station needed for construction of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Council was advised that once the pipeline is constructed, the temporary easement will expire and no encumbrance will remain on the parcel.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller that the matter be tabled.

Interim City Manager Stephen W. Raper advised that the proposed project has nothing to do with the pipeline construction and is for a project Piedmont Natural Gas needs for its own service line and unrelated to construction of the pipeline; is a construction easement only; and, once completed, the property will be restored to its natural condition.

Councilmember Miller requested that it be noted that the easement is not related to construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and withdrew her Motion to table.

Discussion was held relative to the information received by Council with regard to the matter and Assistant City Manager Moton indicated he would look into the matter. City Attorney Richard J. Rose recommended the matter be deferred.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that consideration of the agreement be deferred until the April 24, 2017 meeting.

#### **STREET CLOSING**

The City Council received a petition from former City Manager Charles W. Penny requesting the closing of a portion of Fourth Street between Pin No. 375940169100 and Pin No. 375940148800.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that **RESOLUTION NO. R-2017-16** entitled **RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO CLOSE FOURTH STREET BETWEEN PIN NO. 375940169100 AND PIN NO. 375940148800** be adopted.

#### **BID/CURED IN PLACE PIPE (CIPP)**

The City Council received the tabulation of bids received for cured in place pipe (CIPP). Bids were received and opened on March 21, 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-2017-12**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the bid for cured in place pipe (CIPP) be awarded to Tri-State Utilities at a total cost of \$334,463.50 and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

#### **BIDS/ONE (1) COMBINATION SEWER JET/VACUUM TRUCK**

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase one (1) combination sewer jet/vacuum truck (\$355,154.18) through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), a competitive group purchasing program which allows purchases to be made through competitive bidding and offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(3). The NJPA advertised as required by law and opened sealed bids on February 21, 2014. Bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2017-13**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Jet-Vac Equipment Company, LLC a total cost of \$355,154.18 based on contract RFP

#022014-HVC awarded by the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that Chris Miller be appointed to the STEP Board for a one-year term to expire December 31, 2017.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that Juanita Bynum be appointed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission to fill the unexpired term which will expire June 30, 2017 (*added to agenda in open meeting*).

**CLOSED SESSION**

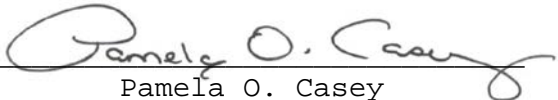
The City Attorney requested a Closed Session to discuss matters concerning attorney-client privilege.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 7:28 p.m. for the purpose stated. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as ESM-466 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 8:50 p.m. and there being no further business, the Council meeting was adjourned.

  
Pamela O. Casey  
City Clerk