

June 12, 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; Rich Worsinger, Director of Energy Resources; Brad Kerr, Director of Engineering; Amy Staton, Director of Finance; Mike Varnell, Fire Chief; Jonathan Boone, Director of Public Works and Water Resources; Nicki Gurganus, Accounting Manager; Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager; Allen Moore, Police Department, Communications Supervisor; Kellieanne Davis, Community Development Administrator; Wanda Alford, Personnel Technician; Kelvin Yarrell, Parks and Recreation Director; Linda Jones, Police Administrative Services Manager; 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 E. Lois Watkins.

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 regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council held May 22, 2017 and scheduled budget review meetings held May 30 and 31, 2017 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

The minutes of the budget review meetings (Committee of the Whole) are as follows:

MINUTES OF A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (BUDGET REVIEW SESSION) HELD TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2017 AT 4:00 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
 Tom Rogers
 W. B. Bullock
 Chris Miller
 David W. Combs, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT:

Stephen W. Raper
 Pamela O. Casey
 Tameka Kenan-Norman
 Thomas Moton, Jr.
 Tameka Kenan-Norman
 Ken Hunter
 Amy Staton

MEMBER ABSENT:

E. Lois Watkins

OTHERS PRESENT:

Darian Cobb, Summer Intern, City Manager's Office

Mayor Pro Tem W. B. Bullock opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and called on Interim City Manager Stephen W. Raper.

Mr. Raper requested a closed session for economic development.

Mr. Raper introduced the City Manager's summer intern, Darian Cobb.

The Interim City Manager told the Council that two budget sessions are scheduled for this week, one today and one tomorrow. He recognized the hard work of staff and department heads in the time-consuming, thoughtful preparation of the budget and gave a special thanks to Budget Manager, Ken Hunter. He recognized former City Manager Charles W. Penny for starting the budget work early.

Mr. Raper gave an overview of the budget as follows:

- Proposed budget \$200,962,710 (a reduction of \$4,458,890 from the 2017 budget);
- There has been a 3.8% increase to the proposed FY 2018 General Fund Budget (\$63,559,430 - direct result of first phase of debt service to DCF/Rocky Mount Events Center; adjustments to employee salaries and benefits; insurance premiums and necessary increase in select operating expenses and service contracts;
- The proposed budget does not include retail customer rates for utilities;
- 5% reduction in electric rates;
- Significant successes/challenges were identified:
 - Successes:**
 - o Rocky Mount Event Center/DCF: moving forward with the project including purchasing property, securing finances, demolition and the start of construction;
 - o CSX: community-wide the project played a huge role in increasing economic interest in the community (work is schedule to start on the project by the end of 2017 with a completion dated of 2019)
 - o Overall, the City is in good financial condition (commended both Council and staff on decisions made);
 - o Seeing improvement in real estate (positive sign of things to come);
 - o Hurricane Matthew: excellent response to citizens; damage to some City facilities (Imperial Centre and some utilities); applied for aid from Federal Government (\$600M approved to be disbursed among three counties);
 - o Watching legislature and congress (nothing negative expected);
 - o Continued excellence in providing utilities; and
 - o Continue to see improvement with vehicle taxes (result of tax & tag together program; no increase in annual fee)
 - Challenges:**
 - o Revaluation (still receiving information from the counties and some appeals have been filed; City's total real property valuation declined 6.6%, but better outcome than expected);
 - o City has made efforts to reduce impact of healthcare costs in order to remain competitive and attract excellent employees;
 - o City infrastructure growing older and needs maintenance for usefulness and safety;

Mr. Raper told the City Council in order to fund services and pay employees and remain revenue-neutral a tax rate of 64 cents will be required (an increase from 60.5 cents). He added that a full year of debt service on the DCF will require an additional 2 cents, for a total of 66 cents.

He noted in the revaluation process about 63% of properties saw no change or experienced a decrease in value.

The City Council was provided with proposed changes to fees and charges as follows:

- No increase in annual vehicle fee

- \$1/ton increase to transfer station tipping fees
- Adjust outside sewer fee to 175% of inside fee
- Amend water and sewer connection fees to cover costs

Mr. Raper reported the proposed budget includes funding to cover a 15% increase in premiums for employee health insurance paid by the City along with increasing funding for coverage provided to retired employees. He explained the increase would have been higher without the continued work by employees taking advantage of the HAS Plan, biometric screening program, "biggest loser" weight-loss competition and HealthMap RX program.

He explained that funding is included for a pay and classification plan (last performed in 2009).

The Interim Manager noted the recognition by staff of the importance of aligning goals and initiatives to the goals and initiatives of the City Council.

Budget and Evaluation Manager, Ken Hunter explained the budget in brief which included:

- Proposed FY 2018 operating budget = \$200,962,710 (2.2% decrease of the adopted FY 2017 budget and 6.5% decrease of FY 2017 revised budget);
- Some other funds reflect reductions, generally reflecting changes in capital expenses;
- Electric fund down over \$5M;
- Sewer - some increase;
- Water - stable;
- Continue to see growth in sales tax (locally and state);
- Utility tax return remains strong;
- Telecoms and cable sales tax continues a downward slide (seeing reductions across the state);
- Increase in interest income;
- City is in a better position due to steps taken to build strong reserves and control spending (also helped the City achieve high bond rating); and
- Tourism growth is anticipated (increase in lodging and occupancy due to Hurricane Matthew and tourism);

Mr. Raper told the Council the rate stabilization fund is continuing to build and increases funds available for investment.

The Budget and Evaluation Manager noted steps taken to reduce and balance the budget, noted increased costs to be passed on to customers and savings, particularly related to the addition of load management switches. He stated no increase in retail fees are expected.

Interim City Manager Raper reported steps are continuing to further Council goals relative to:

- **Engagement-Oriented Communication**

- Growing reach of City-originated communications
- Ongoing efforts to reach a broader audience (Tameka Kenan-Norman)
- Expanded use of social media, mobile messaging
- Increased part-time staffing time

- **Inclusive Work Environment**

- Leadership to create a more inclusive work environment (Thomas Moton, Jr. & staff members)
- Funding provided to continue and grow Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group Initiatives

Councilmember Knight arrived*

- **Workplace Innovation**
 - Plans to relocate the customer service office to Southern Bank building in 2018 (Amy Staton)
*Councilmember Knight requested an updated relative to the building design.
 - Continue improving technology hardware and software improvements
 - Maximize new telephone and radio systems
- **Housing & Education (including Gap Funding)**
 - Overall improvement in local housing market; demand outpacing supply;
 - Growth at Rocky Mount Mills;
 - Opening of Beal Street Square;
 - Great response for new City Housing Programs
 - Redevelopment efforts in the Downtown (John Jesso)
 - Increase in gap payment; monitoring efforts continue (approximate cost is \$1 per utility customer per month)
- **Civic Mobilization**
 - Continue to improve on direct citizen engagement (Human Relations quite effective);
 - Grant support continues to Nash Arts, Communities in Schools and United Community Ministries
- **Retain Skill & Talent**
 - Pay for performance continues (increases of 2.5%-4.5%);
 - Pay & classification study fully funded;
 - Diversity & inclusion efforts expanding;
 - Work continues to create an environment for young professionals
- **Regional Collaboration**
 - Continue to support initiatives established by visioning;
 - Downtown Development Manager attending COG meetings;
 - Efforts ongoing to leverage and enhance partnership with Chamber and Carolinas Gateway Partnership
- **Destination Downtown**
 - Washington Street Grill opening soon;
 - Increased activity from investors and developers;
 - Effort towards management of the DCF/Rocky Mount Event Center & SFM is actively marketing;
 - Ongoing efforts to make Monk to Mill a reality;
 - Continuing Building Assistance Program;
 - Commitment to Downtown Redevelopment
- **Improve Mobility**
 - Annual resurfacing;
 - New transit buses;
 - Improved responsiveness, i.e. - speed cushions (Councilmember Miller inquired when the first speed cushions were tried, when successful and when others added and how much is budget in 2018 for speed cushions). (Councilmember Knight inquired:
 - o if speed cushions can be implemented in other neighborhoods (staff explained the process); and efforts on River Drive
- **Safe Neighborhoods**
 - 6th consecutive year of crime reduction; continue 40-year lows;
 - Continuation of body-worn cameras;
 - Budget includes \$1M for 2 new fire pumpers and station improvements;
 - Enhanced safety through continued redevelopment

Assistant City Manager Tasha Logan Ford reported that a traffic calming report has previously been presented to the Council and staff can bring this back to Council.

Budget and Evaluation Manager Ken Hunter outlined the distribution of revenues as:

- Public Safety - \$0.556
- Parks & Recreation - \$0.151
- Debt Service - \$0.105
- Administration - \$0.094
- Public Works/Engineering - \$0.070
- Legislation (Mayor/Council & City Clerk's Office) - \$0.038
- Planning/Community Dev. - \$0.017

Councilmember Blackwell raised questions relative to:

- Communication to citizens relative to the reduction in crime rate and continued challenges;
- Including enhanced community policing (community reporting and community interaction and engagement)
(Assistant City Manager Tasha Logan Ford noted that neighborhood presidents attend regular meetings.)

Mr. Hunter outlined proposed funding levels by division as follows:

- General Capital Fund - \$645,000
 - Fire station improvements
 - Parks and Recreation capital maintenance
- Electric Fund - \$81.437M
 - 5% rate reduction
 - Continuing capital improvements
 - Additional contribution to rate stabilization
- Gas Fund - \$20.987M
 - No rate changes
 - Pursue system expansions and customer growth
 - Maintain excellent service quality
- Water Fund - \$12.673M
 - No rate increase
 - Minimal increase in operating expenditures
 - Maintenance focus on treatment plants
 - Accelerate replacement of antiquated (galvanized) 2" mains
- Sewer Fund - \$14.312M
 - No rate increase for City residents
 - 3% wholesale rate increase
 - Maintenance focus on treatment plant
 - Planning major outfall maintenance
- Stormwater Fund - \$4.573M
 - No rate increase
 - Continue to meet increasing operating demand
 - Direct attention on major storm flooding issues
- Powell Bill Fund - \$2.466M
 - Includes \$700,000 from vehicle license fee increase
 - o Earmarked for resurfacing
 - o \$1.6M annual total
 - Annual maintenance commitments
 - Sidewalk construction

- Emergency Telephone Fund - \$311,500
 - State funding declines again
 - Reimburse eligible staff costs
 - Majority of funding goes to eligible maintenance activities, service contracts and equipment purchases
 - Continue implementation of backup PSAP

- Communications Fund - \$1.16M
 - Telephone and radio operations
 - Internal Service fund
 - o All expenses charged to departments
 - Completing major Projects
 - Focus on implementation, performance

It was noted the public hearing on the budget will be June 12 and budget adoption June 26, 2017.

Staff responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Mayor Pro Tem Bullock thanked Mr. Hunter for his work on the budget and the presentation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Report only. No action.

CLOSED SESSION

The City Manager requested a closed session for economic development.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 5:42 p.m. for the purpose stated. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as **ESM-476** at the end of Minute Book 33 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee in regular session at 5:57 p.m. and there being no further business adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES OF DAY TWO OF A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (BUDGET REVIEW SESSION) HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017 AT 4:00 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
E. Lois Watkins
Tom Rogers
W. B. Bullock
Chris Miller
David W. Combs, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT:
Stephen W. Raper
Pamela O. Casey
Tameka Kenan-Norman
Thomas Moton, Jr.
Tameka Kenan-Norman
Ken Hunter
Amy Staton

OTHERS PRESENT:
Darian Cobb, Summer Intern, City Manager's Office

Mayor Pro Bullock opened the second day of the Budget meetings at 4:07 p.m. and called on Interim City Manager Stephen W. Raper.

The Interim City Manager stated that overview of the budget and economics was completed at the first meeting.

The Mayor requested a closed session for personnel and economic development to follow today's meeting.

Budget and Evaluation Ken Hunter reviewed and explained revenues and expenses.

**NOTE: The complete FY 2018 Proposed Annual Operating Budget is on file in the City Clerk's Office.*

Questions by Councilmembers included:

- Knight, Wiggins and Blackwell requested that special consideration be given to Home Street, Amos Street Parks and MLK Park
- Councilmember Blackwell inquired if the City is pursuing good tasting water awards
- Councilmember Blackwell suggested a staff program person be in place to assist with bookings for the Rocky Mount Event Center

The Council concluded review of the budget in brief.

150th CITY ANNIVERSARY

Councilmember Knight inquired what activities are planned for the 150th City Anniversary. He was advised that there is no funding in place for the event; however, departments are leveraging funds to include small celebrations and recognitions throughout the year with the largest event to be in conjunction with the July 3rd Independence Day celebration to include a real of some items from the time capsule buried in Braswell Park in 1967.

The City Council considered budgeting funds for the 150th celebration and requested a plan.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the City Council budget \$10,000 for the 150th celebration and that a plan be prepared and presented to the City Council.*

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 5:25 p.m. for discussion of matters concerning personnel and economic development. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as **ESM-477** at the end of Minute Book 33 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee in regular session at 6:07 p.m. and there being no further business adjourned the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF HEROIC ACTS

Mayor David W. Combs read a resolution recognizing the heroic acts of Joyce B. Parker and Milton Batts relative to a residential structure fire at 1126 Sycamore Street on March 2, 2017 wherein they assisted residents in safely exiting the residence.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolution R-2017-32

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF JOYCE B. PARKER AND MILTON BATTS

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2017 at approximately 1:00 p.m. a smoke detector sounded at 1126 Sycamore Street while four people were in the residence, including Joyce B. Parker and Milton Batts; and

WHEREAS, one of the residents was bedridden and another recovering from a recent sickness and surgery; and

WHEREAS, the first smoke detector activated was in the bedroom of the bedridden resident and other interconnected detectors then began to alarm; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Parker was the first to reach the room of the bedridden individual and saw "flames on the whole wall" nearest the bed and, without regard for her own safety, she dashed into the room and pulled the bedridden individual toward the side of the bed away from the fire; and

WHEREAS, when Ms. Parker leaned close to the bed, she noticed the pillow was on fire with the flame being near the right cheek of the bedridden resident. She immediately pulled and lowered her to the floor with speed, caution and care, due to the individual's delicate medical condition, and called for help as she began dragging her from the bedroom into the living room; and

WHEREAS, as Ms. Parker and the victim's mother started to analyze the victim for injuries, Mr. Batts worked to extinguish the growing fire which was filling the residence with smoke; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Parker, with assistance from a nearby neighbor, pulled and half-carried the victim out of the residence away from the smoke and fire to an enclosed porch while the neighbor called 911; and

WHEREAS, while Ms. Parker and the victim's mother cared for the victim until medical assistance arrived, Mr. Batts worked to control the fire by running back and forth to the kitchen, filling pots of water and throwing water onto the flames containing the fire to the bedroom; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the delicate condition of Ms. Parker's own health, she placed concern for another over her own welfare and selflessly acted to rescue the victim, without regard for her own health, safety and welfare, suffering burns to her face; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Batts selflessly and heroically worked to protect the residents using the only tools available to him, a pot and water, and fought to extinguish the fire and protect his family members and their property, saving thousands of dollars in damage from occurring; and

WHEREAS, both Joyce B. Parker and Milton Batts placed concern for family members above their own health, safety and welfare and acted quickly, decisively and heroically in the face of extreme danger to save lives and property; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount is honored to recognize and celebrate the valuable contributions and heroic actions of Joyce B. Parker and Milton Batts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount recognizes that smoke detectors, which were added to the residence as an upgrade to the dwelling a few years ago, were paramount in saving lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount that the heroic acts of Joyce B. Parker and Milton Batts be publicly recognized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be spread upon the pages of the minutes of this proceeding and a copy presented to Joyce B. Parker and Milton Batts as a token of the sincere thanks of the Mayor and City Council for their compassionate nature and heroic acts of courage and bravery.

The Mayor presented a framed copy of the resolution to Ms. Parker and Mr. Batts. The Mayor and Fire Chief, Michael Varnell, joined them for a photograph.

STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK

The Mayor read a proclamation designating the week of June 11-17, 2017 as "Stormwater Awareness Week" in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Public Works and Water Resources Director Jonathan Boone. The Mayor joined Mr. Boone for a photograph.

MEN'S HEALTH MONTH

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of June 2017 as Men's Health Month in the City of Rocky Mount. The Mayor presented the

Proclamation to Reverend Thomas L. Walker, Pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church and joined Reverend Walker for a photograph.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Combs opened the meeting for petitions from the public.

Bronson Williams of 611 Hargrove Street requested the City Council consider streaming Council meetings live so that residents can watch at home and so meetings might be archived. He noted a meeting has been scheduled with staff to address concerns he has previously brought to the City Council.

Nehemiah Smith of 1620 East Virginia Street reiterated his complaint regarding a lack of diversity in the Fire Department.

Mazie McDuffie of 636 Western Avenue voiced a concern for the number of abandoned houses in the City and inquired about the law governing abandoned houses. She also voiced concern relative to taxes and electric bills.

*The Mayor requested staff obtain contact information for Ms. McDuffie in order to contact her relative to her concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. TEMPORARY STREET CLOSING (recommended for approval):

- 1) Request from Pastor Keith Moore on behalf of Abundant Life Ministries to close the 500 block of Mill Street (between Grace and Wilkinson Streets) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2017 for the church's 8th City-Wide Festival (rain date July 15, 2017); and
- 2) Request from Assistant City Engineer/Transportation, Steve Yetman, for permission to close North Church Street (US 301 Business) from U.S. 64 to Airport Road (SR 1542) from 8:45 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. for the duration of the fireworks show on Monday, July 3, 2017 for the City's annual Independence Day Celebration (ordinance required relative to NCDOT standards)

B. AD VALOREM TAX RELEASES (recommended for approval):

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>				
2015	1190	DICKERSON CHARLENE DELOIS 129 KING RICHARD CT ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	73.33 7.33 11.29	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	91.95	DUPLICATE BILLING ON MOBILE HOME
2016	2421	KENNEDY GEORGE EARL & MICHELLE 3204 S CHURCH ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	22.01 2.20 1.22	CITY BUSINESS CLOSED IN 2015
		TOTAL RELEASE:	25.43	

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>				
2012	1224	DICKERSON CHARLENE DELOIS 129 KING RICHARD CT ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	82.36 8.24 37.15	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	127.75	DUPLICATE BILLING ON MOBILE HOME

2013	1198	DICKERSON CHARLENE DELOIS	78.94	CITY	DUPLICATE BILLING
		129 KING RICHARD CT	7.89	PEN	ON MOBILE HOME
		ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	27.79	INT	
		TOTAL RELEASE:	114.62		

C. BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: (recommended for adoption):

- **Ordinance No. O-2017-48** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 FOR SPORTS COMPLEX CONTRIBUTIONS** (increases General Fund relative to sponsorship revenues from Coca-Cola / \$5,508)

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the Consent Agenda be approved inclusive of adoption of **Ordinance No. O-2017-49** entitled **ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT DECLARING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION;** the temporary street closure of the 500 block of Mill Street; approval of tax releases; and adoption of the recommended budget amendment.

2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET/PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to the proposed budget for the City of Rocky Mount for FY 2017-2018.

The Mayor recognized:

Lige Daughtridge of 112 Candle Court who suggested the budget be cut by \$1.3M for a tax increase of only 2 cents to cover the debt service for the Rocky Mount Event Center. Mr. Daughtridge offered the following additional suggestions and stated the reduction will not really change what the City does with respect to full-time staffing and delivering services:

- Reducing the \$900,000 in salary increases by 1% and trimming overtime and part-time costs by 5%
- Instituting conservation initiatives to cut utility costs by 5%;
- Trim Council/Mayor salaries and discontinue health insurance and travel for Council and Mayor;
- Discontinue funding for development of the City;
- City Manager/Downtown Manager - reduce part-time wages;
- Public Affairs - cut advertising, cable and publishing magazine costs;
- Reduce Downtown Revitalization to match previous years;
- Finance - cut funding to the reserve budget by \$25,000; trim \$75,000 in property and management capital; reduce custodial costs and capital outlay for the Judicial Center
- Parks and Recreation - spend less on events (more public events); cut back funding to the Sports Complex; reduce funding for Senior Center repair work
- Community Development - cut funding for land acquisition;
- Neighborhood Redevelopment - temporarily remove from the budget; and
- Strategic initiatives and Economic Development - reduce funding or cut

Bronson Williams of 611 Hargrove Street voiced appreciation to the City for holding the public hearing on the budget at a 7 p.m. meeting. He stated he agrees with some sentiments expressed by Mr. Daughtridge, with the exception of discontinuing Council's health insurance. He reiterated his request to revamp the parks in the Cokey Road and Branch

Street areas and noted he has had a conversation with staff to receive full understanding of the needs for the City as a whole.

Nehemiah Smith of 1620 East Virginia Street stated he has few issues with the budget. He added if there is a slush fund perhaps consideration could be given to commissioning a monument for the City's first black fire brigade. He further suggested to make up for many years of a lack of diversity in the fire department that a scholarship be put together for blacks and other minorities to pay for attendance of the fire academy at Nash Community College. Additionally, he suggested the radius for residency requirements be reduced to 10 to 15 miles.

No one else from the public appeared and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Receipt of the budget was acknowledged. The Mayor stated that adoption of the budget will be on the June 26, 2017 agenda for consideration.

ANNEXATION NO. 310 - WAYNE AND FRANCES COLEY

The Mayor recognized the Interim City Manager to explain the feasibility study prepared in connection with the annexation by the Department of Planning and Development. Interim City Manager Stephen W. Raper explained the report and concluded by recommending approval of the annexation. A copy of the report is on file in Annexation No. 310 in the office of the City Clerk.

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to Annexation 310 and, upon no one appearing relative to the annexation, declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that receipt of the feasibility study be acknowledged and that **Ordinance No. O-2017-50** entitled **ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT/ANNEXATION NO. 310 - WAYNE AND FRANCES COLEY PROPERTY** be adopted.

STREET CLOSING/ PORTION OF FOURTH STREET/PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to a petition submitted by Charles W. Penny, former City Manager, to close a portion of Fourth Street between Pin No. 375940169100 and 375940148800.

Energy Resources Director, Rich Worsinger, advised the City Council that the street closing is in connection with the expansion of the substation near Sutton Road and the planned use for the area is a laydown yard.

No one from the public appeared relative to the proposed street closing and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2017-33** entitled **ORDER CLOSING FOURTH STREET BETWEEN PIN NO. 375940169100 AND PIN NO. 375940148800** be adopted.

PROPOSED ELECTRIC RETAIL RATE REDUCTION (5% REDUCTION)

Interim City Manager Stephen W. Raper advised the City Council that effective April 1, 2017 the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power

Agency (NCEMPA) reduced the wholesale cost of power to the City by 4.4% due to the current and projected continuing lower cost of natural gas. He explained that the reduced wholesale costs along with over 18 months of actual usage and cost data since the July 2015 NCEMPA generation asset sale were used to update the electric distribution system Cost of Service Study which indicates retail rate revenues can be reduced overall by 5%.

Consideration was given to amendments to the following Administrative Policies:

- Department of Energy Resources:
 - a. Policy No. VI.8 Load Management Program
 - b. Policy No. X.7.2 Electric Rate Schedule - Residential Service
 - c. Policy No. X.7.3 Electric Rate Schedule - Small General Service
 - d. Policy No. X.7.4 Electric Rate Schedule - General Seasonal Service
 - e. Policy No. X.7.5 Electric Rate Schedule - Medium General Service
 - f. Policy No. X.7.7 Electric Rate Schedule - Large General Service
 - g. Policy No. X.7.33 Electric Rate Schedule - Electric System Facilities Fee
 - h. Policy No. X.7.34 Electric Rate Schedule - Industrial Service

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2017-51** entitled **ORDINANCE APPROVING/AMENDING ELECTRIC RATE SCHEDULES** be adopted.

PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

The City Council was advised that the City contracted with McNearby Consulting Services to assist with competitively bidding the City's property and casualty insurance renewal. They were further advised that three brokers participated in the process with the John Hackney Agency being the only one providing a quote. Interim City Manager Stephen W. Raper reported that the current proposal keeps the incumbent broker and primary carrier, Travelers Insurance Company, and continues coverage at existing levels with only a 6% increase, due to an 11% reduction in the broker's fee, for a cost not to exceed \$1,175,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the proposal of the John Hackney Agency be accepted.

ASSESSMENT CONTRACT/WATER SERVICE

The City Council received an assessment contract with Tomorrow Shannette Williams for water service to 1020 Compass Creek Drive (PIN# 385106485144). Council was advised that the contract provides for the assessment of \$3,565 in water connection fees against the property.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the assessment contract with Tomorrow Shannette Williams for water service to 1020 Compass Creek Drive (**C-2017-21**) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City.

CONTRACT AMENDMENT/54" OUTFALL DESIGN AND BIDDING AND COLLECTION SYSTEM MODELING

Assistant City Manager Thomas M. Moton, Jr. advised the City Council that the Public Works & Water Resources Department entered into a contract with CH2M HILL in September 2016 to conduct a condition assessment on the 54" sewer outfall, including flow monitoring to evaluate baseline flows and wet weather flows through the 54" Outfall and the 27" Beech Branch Outfall in anticipation of the repair, rehabilitation or replacement of the two primary sewer outfalls. Based on the results, it is recommended that the Department proceed with the repair and/or rehabilitation of the first 2,000 linear feet of the 54" Outfall and the siphon box adjacent to the Fire Training Grounds. The City Council was provided with a contract and scope of work to proceed with the design, bidding, contract administration and inspection of the work required to rehabilitate the first 2,000 feet of the 54" Outfall, including modeling portions of the Outfall further downstream of the project and along the 27" Beech Branch Outfall in anticipation of future projects to address known deficiencies in other sections of the sewer collection system at a cost of \$328,100.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the contract amendment with CH2M HILL North Carolina, Inc. be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City. The contract amendment will be placed on file in the City Clerk's office with the initial contract with CH2M Hill North Carolina, Inc. **(C-2016-26)**.

PURCHASE AGREEMENT - EASEMENT/ROCKY MOUNT BATTLEBORO CEMETERY

Assistant City Manager Thomas M. Moton, Jr. advised the City Council that the Parks and Recreation Department is seeking approval for the purchase of an easement at the Battleboro Cemetery by CSX to construct a retaining wall on CSX property and enable CSX to inspect, maintain and repair said retaining wall via access from the City of Rocky Mount's Battleboro Cemetery for a cost of \$1,955.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the Purchase Agreement - Easement with CSX Transportation, Inc. **(C-2017-22)** be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same, and any deed or documentation necessary, on behalf of the City.

MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/SPRINGFIELD ROAD WIDENING - SIDEWALK INSTALLATION

Assistant City Manager Tasha Logan Ford provided the City Council with a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) relative to sidewalk installation on the west side of Springfield Road from US 64 Alternate to Leggett Road in conjunction with the widening of Springfield Road. Ms. Ford explained that the City will be responsible for 40% of the actual costs of the sidewalk estimated at \$45,500.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that **Contract No. C-2017-23** with the

North Carolina Department of Transportation (WBS Elements: 39930.3.2/TIP #: U-4762) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the municipal agreement on behalf of the City.

BACKUP PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP)

The City Council received proposals from Oakley Collier Architects (\$61,000) and Mission Critical Partners (MCP)(\$57,000) for design services associated with a backup 911 center (Public Safety Answering Point [PSAP]) at Fire Station 7), including installation of a sprinkler system and various other improvements, in compliance with State statutes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the proposals (**C-2017-24**) from Oakley Collier Architects and Mission Critical Partners (MCP) in the total amount of \$118,000 be approved; that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the contracts on behalf of the City; and that the following budget ordinance be adopted:

- **Ordinance No. O-2017-52** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 FOR E911 BACKUP PSAP PROJECT (\$118,000).**

SOLE-SOURCE PURCHASE/CENTURYLINK 911 PHONE SYSTEM

The City Council received a proposal for the "sole-source" purchase of a CenturyLink 911 Phone System necessary for the legislative mandated backup PSAP Center pursuant to G.S. 143-129(e)(6) based on standardization or compatibility. The information furnished by the Purchasing Division supporting the recommendation will be placed on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2017-19**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the "sole-source" purchase of the CenturyLink 911 Phone System (\$146,760.51 with additional annual maintenance costs of \$10,290.47 in year two, for a total cost of \$157,050.98) be approved and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the system in accordance with the Council's award.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the City Council meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.


Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk