

February 12, 2018

Mayor David W. Combs welcomed citizens and City staff to the Seventh Annual State of the City address.

Mayor Combs recognized and thanked his wife, Catherine, for her presence and support.

The Mayor recognized Councilmembers and thanked them for the work they do on behalf of the citizens of Rocky Mount.

Mayor Combs introduced City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney. He noted Charles W. Penny, former City Manager, announced his retirement in the winter of 2016 after serving the City for almost twenty (20) years, approximately six (6) as City Manager, and that Stephen W. Raper was appointed Interim City Manager to serve for approximately four (4) months during the search for a new City Manager. The Mayor expressed appreciation for Mr. Raper's service.

He noted City Manager Small-Toney is the first female city manager and brings with her thirty-eight (38) years of experience. He stated she is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was recently recognized by UNC as a former student-athlete who has made memorable and lasting contributions at UNC and beyond and is a recipient of the UNC Tar Heel Trailblazer Award.

The Mayor recognized and thanked the Assistant and Interim Assistant City Managers, Department Heads and city employees for the excellent work they perform.

He noted North Carolina is the 10th largest state in the United States and Rocky Mount is the 15th largest city in North Carolina with a \$200M budget and 900 employees. He stated Rocky Mount is a full-service city providing public power, gas and water service.

The Mayor recognized and welcomed Boy Scout Troop 5, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, and leader Tim Lane; and Troop 7, sponsored by First Methodist Church, and leader Tony Stone.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

The Mayor outlined the following changes occurring in the City in the past few months as:

CHANGES

- Rocky Mount is working to become more business friendly. As a result, there has been a restructuring of departments. A new Community and Business Development Department was recently established, providing a focus for local, small, minority and women-owned businesses. The department is comprised of Community Development, Business Development and Downtown Development. The Director of Community and Business Development is Dr. Landis Faulcon who has more than twenty-five (25) years experience in local government, specifically managing revitalization, community and economic development initiatives.
- The former Planning and Development office is now known as the Department of Development Services. This department will now be referred to as a One-Stop Shop for developers and businesses to process applications for plan reviews, permits, inspections and any other processes needed for property development. The goal

is to improve the permitting and inspection services necessary for encouraging and supporting development throughout the City.

- The Public Affairs Office is now known as the Office of Communications and Marketing. The name more suitably describes the functions of the office. All media inquiries are now initially directed to this office, ensuring that the information provided is accurate, timely and that the proper spokesperson is chosen to provide responses.
- Willie Williams is now serving as Interim Police Chief for the Rocky Mount Police Department. Williams is a three-time police chief. Before serving as police chief in other municipalities, Williams worked as a major for the Rocky Mount Police Department for over five (5) years and brings a lot of experience.
- JoSeth Bocook is serving as Interim Director of Development Services for the City of Rocky Mount. Bocook was appointed as the Interim Director of the Development Services Department in October 2017. Mr. Bocook formerly served the City as a Planner and Senior Planner.
- Peter Varney, former Assistant City Manager, is now working as Interim Assistant City Manager. Mr. Varney retired from the city in 2013 after forty-one (41) years of continuous excellent service.
- The next step for the City will be to fill the Assistant City Manager position and find someone who is technology driven.

Mayor Combs stated that overall the State of the City is very good. The City is in excellent condition. The 2018 budget is 2.2% less than the adopted 2017 budget. He said there are increased revenues and increased development (which grows the tax base). He noted:

- Some positions have been frozen;
- Capital expenditures are being reviewed;
- The City is in a good financial position; has had clean audits and has healthy reserves in all fund balances.

He thanked Finance Director Amy Staton for the work she and her Department does.

The Mayor continued by outlining the following highlights and accomplishments in the City:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Carolinas Gateway Partnership - joint venture between Nash and Edgecombe Counties with involvement from other small cities and the private sector; has 44 active projects; had 6 major announcements in 2017 that were the equivalent of \$725M and created 11,008 jobs;
- The Rocky Mount Metropolitan Statistical Area (Edgecombe and Nash Counties and Rocky Mount) contribute over 2 billion dollars in consumer spending to the local economy with the City of Rocky Mount representing 60 percent of all retail dollars spent;
- Expects an announcement from CSX in the future; work is still being done; no firm commitment is in place; but they made a huge investment in land;
- Rocky Mount MSA contributes over \$2M in local retail sales in the two-county area and approximately \$1.2B is spent inside the City (60%);
- Edgecombe Shopping Center Renovation - Rose's Superstore added a couple years ago; Pizza Hut recently opened, creating 15 new

jobs. The developer has also initiated dialogue with a cell store to consider expansion in the center. Edgcombe Shopping Center is near 100 percent occupancy.

- Business Recruitment worked with the closed Biscuitville property which was sold to El Tapitio Restaurant. This means expansion for El Tapitio which plans to open at this location early 2018.
- Moseley Commercial Real Estate from Charlotte has development currently underway. The developer has purchased all properties that follow the perimeter of Sam's Club. Starbuck's and Kay Jeweler's will open in about 6 months.
- Lidl, the fourth largest grocery chain in the world, invested in Rocky Mount and purchased acreage adjacent to Target. Lidl has a five-million-dollar capital investment with the creation of 75 new jobs.
- Homewood Suites by Hilton Hotel opened early January. The \$12 million, 80,000 square-foot hotel is not only a huge investment for our community, but it also provides much-needed space for tournament visitors at the Sports Complex and visitors who will soon flock to the new Rocky Mount Event Center.
- North Carolina Department of Revenue - the \$1.8 million, 32,000 square foot building is now open on Country Club Road and includes over 100 employees.
- Tidal Wave Auto Spa is located at 1615 Benvenue Road. This is the first location in the state for Tidal Wave Auto Spa.
- A new dine-in Domino's Pizza and an ABC store opened recently on Benvenue Road.
- Rocky Mount Mills - 100% occupancy of its 65 renovated Village homes. Construction is underway on the main mill buildings where we will have 90,000 square feet of office space and 70 apartments (1, 2 and 3-bedroom units) as well as event space and restaurants. The building will be ready for occupancy by the 4th quarter of 2018. A local company, Envolve, announced their move to the Mills, bringing 150 employees when they move in, late summer 2018. The City and Rocky Mount Mills entered into a lease agreement for Panther Island (natural area will be cleaned up and made available for events). Designing and planning will begin this year. TBC West and Tacos, Ramblers, HopFly Brewing, BDD Brewing and Topsy Tomato Wood-Fired pizza opened in 2017. Rocky Mount Mills hosted, on average 700 people at each of the Mill Music Sessions from April through October. Helps attract and maintain young adults in the area.
- Boice Willis Clinic Pediatrics and Primary Care - new clinic under construction; approximately 3 months from opening
- Davita - new kidney center
- The Lodge at Village Road - nursing home on Halifax Road; large facility; \$10-\$12M investment
- Sam's Xpress Car Wash & Exxon Mobil gas station - on 301 S.; large investment by someone from outside the area
- Pfizer - over past few years made major \$300M investment; spent another approximately \$50M in the plant and has 2,600 employees; expecting to expand; great community supporter.
- Consolidated Diesel, McClane, Cheesecake Factory and Poppies - all industries doing well; extremely busy

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- Danny Talbott Cancer Center at Nash UNC Health Care - named after Danny Talbott, our city's legend in athletics and a cancer survivor. The 11,000 square-foot facility features 10 exam rooms, state-of-the-art equipment and services like diagnostic imaging, financial and genetic counseling, radiation therapy, infusion therapy, nutrition support and much, much more. The Mayor saluted the Board of Directors of the hospital

and Nash County Commissioners for making this great facility a reality in the City.

DOWNTOWN ROCKY MOUNT

- The Southern Bank Building relocated to the corner of Church and Sunset Streets and invested \$5 million, consolidating their back office operations and creating a campus of over 150 people. This was the first new private construction project in over twenty (20) years in downtown Rocky Mount.
- \$4.25 million in investment was made in Downtown Rocky Mount within 60 days.
- The purchase of Station Square was completed and there will be an open house and ribbon cutting at Station Square this Thursday, February 15 at 5:30 p.m. Station Square is located at 301 S. Church Street
- The former Carleton House building in Downtown Rocky Mount has been purchased. The building will be redeveloped into a boutique hotel with 68 guest rooms and a restaurant; \$750,000 investment; will spend \$2.5M to renovate
- Five Points - across from Edgecombe Community College; \$425,000 recently purchased and development plan being created;
- Bel Air Arts Center - recently purchased for almost \$250,000; continuing artist center and opening yoga studio;
- Continued reinvestment in the Downtown

The Mayor noted the City Council has had the vision for years that public investment had to be made before private investment would come. He added public investment has been made in a big way in the Downtown with the Imperial Centre (\$30M project) and the new Event Center (\$40M project) and that investment is now paying off.

He said he had always heard if you go to a city and there is no road construction nothing is happening and we do not have that problem in Rocky Mount. He stated the Wesleyan Boulevard improvements are about \$36M and the Hunter Hill Road project is about a \$6M project and seven (7) other projects are planned between now and 2022 in the area, with the largest being a \$47M project at the Sunset/I-95 exit, not including anything related to CSX. He thanked local DOT Board Member, Gus Tulloss.

He reported that although unemployment is still too high at 6%-7%, it has reduced from 12%-14% and ongoing investment will provide additional jobs and opportunities.

HOUSING

- The start of construction for Ravenwood Crossing was held in November. The new \$9M affordable rental community for families, singles and seniors will be at the site of the former Clairmont Apartments. Ravenwood Crossing will offer 80 new townhome units. There will also be a community building with management offices, a multipurpose room, laundry, fitness center and computer rooms. There will be an outdoor play/picnic area as well.
- Beal Street Square Apartments celebrated its grand opening in November; \$10M project. The apartments are comprised of 80 affordable housing units, 20 one-bedroom units and 60 two-bedroom units. The complex also boasts of a community center, 24-hour fitness center, laundry facility, computer lab, children's playground and outdoor picnic shelter.
- There is less housing inventory than at any time in the past thirty (30) years;
- Two (2) regional builders are building in Rocky Mount now, along with building by local builders

CITY DEPARTMENTS**Development Services:**

- In collaboration with Rocky Mount Public Utilities, the Department of Development Services, previously known as Planning and Development, processed 144 Energy Share weatherization rebates for residential customers. Energy Share is a program in which customers can receive a cash rebate for work related to attic weatherization, for a replacement HVAC system and/or for duct work. Through Energy Share, the City paid back \$153,161 dollars to our citizens and improved the energy efficiency of the City's housing stock.
- The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed 33 applications for building improvements to properties within the City's four local historic districts, ensuring the landscape of our neighborhoods remain intact and allowing the adaptive reuse of historic resources for the enjoyment of new generations.

Rocky Mount Energy Resources:

- On July 1, 2017, Rocky Mount Public Utilities reduced electric rates by an overall 5% across all electric rate schedules and increased the monthly credits available through the Load Management Program from \$129 to \$225/year. Load management is a way to control the amount of electricity being used at one time. When periods of high demand occur, RMPU uses radio controlled switches to reduce the demand for power and lower the cost of electricity citywide.
- In May 2017, Energy Resources earned the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA) for providing reliable and safe electric service. They also received the Diamond level for the fifth time, which signifies 100 percent of the criteria were met. Energy Resources is one of only two public power providers to receive the Diamond level recognition five times.
- In March 2017, Energy Resources initiated the year-long project of replacing all street and area lights with light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures. About 70% complete, the LED fixtures are more energy efficient, have a longer lifespan and produce a better color rendition.

Public Works & Water Resources:

- In September 2017, city staff observed that the north gate of the Tar River Water Supply Reservoir Dam had lowered due to an equipment malfunction. The south gate also experienced an equipment malfunction due to Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. The department completed a project to renew the hydraulic cylinders utilized to control the gates at the Tar River Water Supply Reservoir Dam. The repairs were completed November 2017.
- The Public Works and Water Resources Department was responsible for treating 3.1 billion gallons at the Water Treatment Plants (Sunset and Tar River Reservoir) and 4 billion gallons of wastewater at the Tar River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, all in compliance with state and federal regulations.
- A litter crew was established and managed by the department to address roadside litter within the city limits. The department partnered with Christian Fellowship Home and Tri-County Industries to provide the labor for the crew. In addition to addressing the issue of litter, this effort provides meaningful employment for clients at these two local non-profits. Between March and December 2017, the crew invested approximately 4,600 manhours in this effort and collected 2,161 bags of litter, 149 illegal roadside signs and 15 tires

- The City Council recently spent ½ day learning about the City's water and sewer infrastructure; if combined, Rocky Mount's total water and sewer lines would stretch from Rocky Mount to New Orleans; older water and sewer infrastructure is a challenge across the country (this could include roads and other infrastructure; we will have to make investments to not just repair, but to replace with new infrastructure).

Fire:

- A significant accomplishment this year was the completion of the department's fire training prop. The entire project was planned, designed and constructed by fire department employees. With the ingenuity of our fire department employees, 14 Conex boxes (an intermodal container for shipping and storage) were modified into a state-of-the-art four-story fire training facility. Countless hours from fire department employees were put into completing the project. With the investment of less than \$90,000 the City now has one of the most modern and versatile fire and public safety training props in eastern North Carolina. Similar training props are estimated to cost over \$400,000. Along with the pride of saving the City well over \$300,000, the training facility will support quality training for firefighters and other public safety employees for years to come.
- Another significant accomplishment this year was the acquisition of a high clearance vehicle. This \$100,000+ vehicle was purchased through military surplus, reconditioned, and modified by fire department employees with an investment of less than \$3,000. This high clearance vehicle will serve as a tremendous asset to the fire department during fire and rescue operations. The transformation of the military high clearance vehicle to an emergency vehicle will aid the department when performing swift water rescues or evacuations during flood emergencies without relying on the National Guard or state resources to arrive. The fire department high clearance vehicle will also enable firefighters to access fires and other emergencies that are off-road or in rugged terrain.
- One of the best fire departments in the State; currently renovating some departments

Police:

- We are working to make Rocky Mount a safe community. A part of that is continuing our community policing efforts like Lunch with a Cop, National Night Out and Coffee with a Cop. We also want to implement new initiatives like Chat with the Chief. Interim Police Chief Willie Williams led the effort starting January 16, traveling to 4 different communities so that he could speak with residents about their concerns. Chat with the Chief will be held again and there will be announcements about that
- Communications improvements (911) include Police and Fire

Parks and Recreation:

- In 2017, Rocky Mount celebrated its 150th anniversary with the sealing of a time capsule. The time capsule will be unearthed in 2067 and includes nearly 60 items, like a picture of the City's new Tar River Transit buses, an "Origin of the Dream" DVD, photographs of our city council and a Talk of the Town magazine with the City's first female city manager on the cover, City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney. Early last year, the time capsule from the 100-year anniversary celebration was opened.

- The Parks and Recreation department has invested over \$3.8 million in parks and recreation capital improvement within the last three years. The most recent investment was at Hornbeam Park. The renovation included a reconstructed tennis court along with a variety of play equipment and areas. Hornbeam Park joins the list of renovated playgrounds and recreation areas, such as Buck Leonard Park, Home Street Park, the soccer area at the Rocky Mount Sports Complex, Holly Street Park and the South Rocky Mount Community Center. We have a long-term plan for our Parks and Recreation Department; we have 50 parks in the City
- The Sports Complex/Athletic Complex is doing great; over 100,000 visits and brings in about \$12M; great investment years ago and paying off

Finance:

- The City's Business Office, utilized for the payment of utility bills, property taxes and more, will soon move to the former Southern Bank building, right across from City Hall. Expect a more spacious payment and customer service area, with a more private setting for the customer assistance office.

Rocky Mount Event Center:

- The Rocky Mount Event Center is scheduled to open October 2018. The facility is a 150,000-square foot building. It will primarily host amateur sporting events, but may also be used for concerts, conventions, trade shows, meetings, graduations and more. It will also include an indoor ropes course, a leadership and development center, a banquet hall and a medical center. It is the only building of its kind in eastern North Carolina.
- Sports Facility Management (SFM) has been hired to manage the facility. Marcus Murrell was hired November 2017 to serve as the Rocky Mount Event Center manager. He has over 18 years of experience in the event industry, most recently working as the operations director for the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, South Carolina.
- A marketing director for the Event Center will be announced soon and a job fair will be held later this year with information on additional employment opportunities that will be available at the facility.
- Events are already being booked.

The Mayor noted there are still some challenges to the City such as, infrastructure repair/replacement, technology, affordable housing, gentrification (as we see new development), pay and classification study (to hire and retain excellent employees). He added that every City deals with the challenge of unfunded State and Federal Government mandates and emergencies.

REBRANDING

- The Mayor showed an example of the logo for the City's rebranding. He stated this will not only be the logo for the Rocky Mount Event Center, but also for the City of Rocky Mount as we undergo a rebranding effort and solidify our position with the tagline, "The Center of It All." We are centrally located, or mid-way between New York and Miami, Florida; at the center of a national trend around amateur sports; and at the center of the conversation, recently being featured on HBO.
- Full City Council Agendas are now online at www.rockymountnc.gov.
- There are many ways the Communications & Marketing Office provides information to the public, including through our main

website at www.rockymountnc.gov and on our microsites at downtownrockymount.com, imperialcentre.org and rockymountsportscomplex.com. Tune in to C.I.T.Y.TV 19 on YouTube or on Channel 19 for Suddenlink customers. Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You can also Text CITYBEAT TO 55469 and be the first to hear about city initiatives. And, please sign up for our e-newsletter, City Beat, by visiting www.rockymountnc.gov.

The Mayor invited anyone interested to register for the Citizen's Academy coming up from March 1 through May 3, 2018.

Mayor Combs ended his State of the City address with quotes by Vince Lombardi "it's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up" and Henry Ford "coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

He stated that Rocky Mount is a resilient city. He said the only way we can continue the success we have now is to continue to work together. He thanked all present for what they do in the community to make it a great place to live. He thanked all for their presence and asked for God's blessings on our City, our Twin County Region and each one present.

Recessed at 8:10 p.m.

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Mayor David W. Combs convened the regular City Council meeting at 8:19 p.m. in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building.

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: Rochelle D. Small-Toney, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Thomas M. Moton, Jr., Assistant City Manager; Peter F. Varney, Interim City Manager; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Rich Worsinger, Director of Energy Resources; Amy Staton, Director of Finance; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Nicki Gurganus, Accounting Manager; Latasha Hall; Utilities Business Manager; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officer: Retired Police Sergeant Stoney Battle.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of regular meetings of the City Council held January 8, 2018 (recessed until January 18) and January 22, 2018 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATION/NASH-ROCKY MOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Mayor welcomed the Nash-Rocky Mount Schools Superintendent, Dr. Shelton L. Jefferies; members of the Nash-Rocky Mount Board of Education, Board Chair, Ann Edge and Vice Chair, Bill Sharpe; Chief of Staff, Brian Miller; and Communications Officer, Dr. Patricia Hollingsworth. The Mayor recognized and congratulated Mr. Jefferies, the Board members and staff for meeting and exceeding the North

Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Academic Growth and Success.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Wiggins and unanimously carried that the following **Resolution R-2018-7** entitled **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING NASH-ROCKY MOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR MEETING AND EXCEEDING NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (NCDPI) ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUCCESS** be adopted:

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
NASH-ROCKY MOUNT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOR MEETING AND EXCEEDING
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (NCDPI)
ACADEMIC GROWTH AND SUCCESS**

WHEREAS, a total of twelve (12) schools in the Nash-Rocky Mount Public School (NRMPS) district: Coopers Elementary, Baskerville Elementary, Bailey Elementary, Englewood Elementary, Cedar Grove Elementary, Hubbard Elementary, Southern Nash Middle, Edwards Middle, Red Oak Middle, Tar River Academy, Rocky Mount High and NRM-ECHS were honored by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) for meeting academic growth during the 2016-2017 school year; and

WHEREAS, two (2) schools, Nashville Elementary and Spring Hope Elementary, were honored for exceeding expected academic growth for the 2016-2017 school year; and

WHEREAS, each school was issued a certificate from the NCDPI signed by State Superintendent Mark Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Nash-Rocky Mount Early College High School (NRM-ECHS) was issued a certificate for having a 100% graduation rate for the 2016-2017 academic year; and

WHEREAS, such recognition does not happen without dedicated leadership and the Nash-Rocky Mount School System has that in Superintendent Dr. Shelton Jeffries and the staff at each school; and

WHEREAS, in receiving this designation, Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools and each individual school, distinguished themselves individually and collectively for their hard work and commitment to academic excellence and brought credit not only to themselves, but to their leadership, staff, students and community; and

WHEREAS, Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools is one of four hundred forty-seven (447) school districts in the United States and Canada to have been honored by the College Board with placement on the 8th Annual Advanced Placement District Honor Roll, reflecting the success of the school district in motivating academically prepared students; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council support all efforts of the Nash-Rocky Mount Board of Education, staff, community members, parents and students that enrich the Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools students' learning growth experiences so that students can become leaders and positive contributors to the community in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor David W. Combs and the Rocky Mount City Council hereby congratulates Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools, its leadership, staff and students, for the great accomplishment and honor of meeting and exceeding NCDPI academic growth in 2016-2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council, individually and collectively thank the school system, leadership, staff and students for the honor the designation has brought to Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools and to the City of Rocky Mount; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be spread upon the pages of the minutes of this proceeding and a copy be presented to Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools in recognition of this phenomenal accomplishment.

Adopted this the 12th day of February, 2018.

Mayor Combs presented Superintendent Jefferies with a framed Resolution and congratulated Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools on this outstanding accomplishment.

UTILITY BILLS/ONLINE PETITION

Mayor Combs introduced Rich Worsinger, Director of Energy Resources, for comments.

Mr. Worsinger reported that a petition is being circulated online entitled, "Shed Some Light on Our Electric Bills" by Change.org and at last count there were approximately 1,200 signatures. Mr. Worsinger stated the three main points of the petition are: 1) Citizens are financially and emotionally crippled by energy bills that do not make sense; 2) This is due to a debt of more than \$1B; and 3) They asked that we explain the facts and disprove rumors, transparently and plainly.

Mr. Worsinger responded to the Petition by making the following points:

1. It is recognized that many of our citizens struggle to make ends meet and pay their monthly bills including their utility bill and that becomes even more difficult when there is a very cold winter that drives up energy use and causes higher than normal or unexpectedly high bills;
2. The debt referenced in the Petition is no longer an issue since the City sold its share of the electric generation assets that caused the debt and now has competitive electric rates. In fact, the City's residential electric rate is lower than the neighboring CO-OP's and on par with Duke and Dominion. He added that customers who participate in the Load Management Switch Program now have rates lower than Duke and Dominion; and
3. These comments are made tonight to respond to the Petition, explain the facts and disprove rumors.

He added the City plans to continue those efforts to get the message out by:

- Developing a segment for TV19 focusing on why bills are higher in the winter, to include a more in-depth discussion of what citizens can do to reduce their energy consumption and thereby lower energy bills along with ways the City can help;
- Highlighting the message in the City Manager's weekly newspaper column on Sunday;
- Asking for an opportunity to appear on David Joyner's Movin' 99.3 Radio Show to get the message out; and

- Asking for an opportunity to appear on WHIG’s morning show as well as Power 95.5 and 98.5 (the Big Dawg) to get the message out.

Councilmember Knight asked that the City Manager assure customers, especially elderly customers, that their utilities will not be disconnected as long as they work in good faith to pay their utility bills.

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney stated that citizens needing assistance should call the Utility Billing Office and ask for the Business Manager, Latasha Hall, for assistance.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lewis Turner requested a commitment from the City Council that all communities in the City share in the economic prosperity.

Bronson Williams requested Council give consideration to livestreaming City Council meetings.

Nehemiah Smith requested that when there is an event in a community requiring police presence that citizens in the community be given notification; that information regarding utility issues not only be communicated to the public through televising but also through the print media; and encouraged the Fire Department to stay committed to diversity.

Randy Adcox stated it is hard not to be optimistic after hearing the Mayor’s State of the City speech and that people have been asking him to bring up issues when learning that he attends Council meetings. He expressed appreciation to the Mayor for contacting him recently in response to concerns and thanked the Mayor, Council and City leaders for the jobs they are doing.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. 2018 NASH COUNTY FOUNDATION TO REDUCED THE USE OF DRUGS GRANT (recommended for approval):

The City Council was notified that the Police Department has received notification that the Nash County Foundation to Reduce the Use of Drugs is accepting applications for grant funds. Council was advised the Police Department intends to apply for funding for a one-time grant of \$7,500 to be used to enhance the current Police Explorers Program through training, education and uniforms.

B. AWARD OF DUTY SIDEARM (recommended for approval):

The City Council received a recommendation for the award of a duty sidearm to Corporal Michael Lewis who will retire from the Rocky Mount Police Department on February 28, 2018 with 29 years of service.

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

SCHEDULE B - taxes over \$100 recommended for release and/or refund by the City Council:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>				

2016	1283	OLIVER KENNETH LEE 2601 N BROWNTOWN RD BATTLEBORO, NC 27809	154.03 16.94	CITY	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	170.97		
2014	1502	PRETZEL TWISTER ATTN JIAN LU 1612 BLOOMSBURY RD GREENVILLE, NC 27858	90.39 26.21	CITY INT	BILLED IN ERROR INCORRECT OWNER
		TOTAL RELEASE:	116.60		

D. AMENDED GRANT APPLICATION AND BUDGET ORDINANCE/ROCKY MOUNT SENIOR CENTER

The City Council received an amended grant application from the Senior Center relative to an application approved in October 2017 to the Upper Coastal Plain Area Agency on Aging for Senior Center general purpose funding in the amount of \$10,939, requiring a local match of \$3,646 (25%) for equipment, building improvements and supplies for the Senior Center to replace sign replacement with Senior Center program.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the Consent Agenda be approved inclusive of acknowledging notification of intent to apply for grant; approval of duty sidearm; approval of tax releases; approval of amended grant application; adoption of **Ordinance No. O-2018-6** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 FOR SENIOR CENTER GENERAL PURPOSE GRANT** to appropriate grant funds of \$10,939; and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute any necessary documentation, including subsequent grant agreements, on behalf of the City.

HOUSING INCENTIVE FUNDS

Interim Assistant City Manager Peter Varney noted that in June 2017 the City Council allocated \$75,000 in 2017 Housing Incentive Funds to the Joy Community Development Corporation (Joy CDC) to be used towards renovation costs associated with new roofs and windows for units at 716-720 Starling Way and in December 2017 allocated an additional sum of \$30,000 for other enhancements for the 45 properties to include front porches.

Mr. Varney reported that Joy CDC has requested an additional \$16,000 to cover the cost of solid waste removal from the site and has advised that the general contractor, Troy Davis, did not account for the cost of waste removal resulting from gutting the apartments. He noted of the 45 properties, 21 are completed and rented; 5 are completed and not rented and 7 are 95% complete.

The City Council was advised that Joy CDC has borrowed \$415,000 for the project.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the funding allocation outlined above be approved and that the Mayor and City

Clerk be authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Joy Community Development Corporation (Joy CDC) on behalf of the City. The Amendment shall be filed in the City Clerk's Office with the original agreement **(C-2017-26)** approved June 26, 2017.

TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The City Council received the following recommendations from the Traffic Engineer:

ADOPT:

1. STOP on W. Duke Circle at Minges Street/E. Duke Circle
2. STOP on Minges Street at W. Duke Circle
3. YIELD on Minges Street at Minges Street

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2018-7** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDINANCE MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

BIDS/ONE (1) 2018 CRANE CARRIER LET2 CAB CHASSIS

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase one (1) 2018 Crane Carrier LET2 Cab Chassis from the North Carolina Sheriff's Association (NCSA) Refuse Truck Procurement Program, Bid #17-01-0617R, Specification #4. 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-2018-3**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Southern Truck Service, Incorporated at a cost of \$156,834 based on the North Carolina Sheriff's Association Bid #17-01-0617R and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

BID/FOUR (4) 2018 FORD UTILITY POLICE INTERCEPTORS AWD (K8A) AND EIGHT (8) 2018 FORD INTERCEPTORS (P2M)

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase four (4) 2018 Ford Utility Police Interceptors AWD (K8A) and eight (8) 2018 Ford Interceptors (P2M) through the NC Sheriff's Association (NCSA) Vehicle Procurement Program, Bid #18-04-0912, Specification #93 and #95, 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) and allows local governments to purchase apparatus, supplies, materials or equipment through a competitive bidding group purchasing program). Bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2018-4**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the bids for the

equipment be awarded as follows and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue purchase orders in accordance with the Council's award:

- a. Four (4) 2018 Ford Utility Police Interceptors AWD (K8A): award to Cooper Ford at a per vehicle cost of \$29,603, including option costs of \$1,540, for a total cost of \$118,412 (Specification #93); and
- b. Eight (8) 2018 Ford Interceptor (P2M) vehicles: award to Performance Ford, Incorporated at a per vehicle cost of \$25,858, including option costs of \$1,490 for a total cost of \$206,864 (Specification #95).

BID/POLICE GEAR

The City Council received the tabulation of re-bids received for Police Gear. Re-bids were received and opened on December 5, 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-2018-5**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the bid for Police Gear be awarded to Lawmen's Distribution, LLC at a total cost of \$112,837.70 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) ALTEC DT65, 65' DIGGER DERRICK AND ONE (1) ALTEC MODEL AN67-E100-AWD NON-OVERCENTER AERIAL DEVICE WITH ELEVATOR (INSULATED)

The City Council received a recommendation for the purchase of one (1) Altec DT65, 65' Digger Derrick and one (1) Altec Model AN67-E100-AWD non-overcenter aerial device with elevator (insulated) 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 March 11, 2014. Bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2018-6**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the bids be awarded to Altec Industries, Incorporated based on NJPA Contract #031014-ALT as follows and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award:

1. One (1) Altec Model DT65, 65' Digger Derrick @ total cost of \$329,574; and
2. One (1) Altec Model AN67-E100-AWD Non-Overcenter Aerial Device with Elevator (Insulated) @ total cost of \$386,348.

BIDS/LUMP SUM TREE TRIMMING

The City Council received the tabulation of bids received for lump sum tree trimming. Bids were received and opened on December 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-2018-7**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to CLCI Services, LLC d/b/a Caldwell Landscaping & Clearing at a total cost of \$383,757 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City.

APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor appointed Sue Battle Moore to fill the vacancy on the Human Relations Commission. This is an unexpired term that expires June 30, 2019.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight and seconded by Councilmember Miller that Gloria Whitley-Williams be appointed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for an unexpired term to expire June 30, 2020 and that George Patrick Zammiello, Jr. be appointed to the Alternate Position on the Board of Adjustment to fill the unexpired term to expire June 2020.

Motion was made by Councilmember Wiggins that the motion be amended to also include the re-appointments of Carol Ludwig and Ann P. Edge to the Braswell Memorial Library Board (terms expire December 31, 2021) and Councilmember Chris Miller to the STEP Board (term expires December 31, 2018). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:46 p.m.



Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk