

May 7, 2018

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a Special Called Session to hold interviews relative to the Ward 3 Councilmember vacancy at 9:30 a.m. in the Committee Room on the third floor of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building with Mayor David W. Combs presiding.

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

Staff Present: Rochelle D. Small-Toney, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

#### WELCOME

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 9:53 a.m. and welcomed citizens.

#### CLOSED SESSION

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 9:55 a.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as **ESM-494** at the end of **Minute Book 34** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

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#### REGULAR SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the City Council return to regular session at 10:20 a.m.

\*The City Attorney left the meeting

#### CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Mayor Combs thanked Bronson Williams for his interest in the Ward 3 seat on the Council.

Councilmember Knight stated that out of the five (5) candidates one candidate's eligibility has been questioned. He stated he believes the Council should not interview that candidate and, if the decision is made to interview the candidate, then that candidate should not be considered for appointment. He stated it would not be fair to the other four (4) candidates to appoint a candidate who has lived in Ward 3 less than three (3) weeks and never voted in that ward.

A Motion made by Councilmember Knight and seconded by Councilmember Blackwell that Richard Joyner not be allowed to go through the interview process or be considered for appointment to the unexpired Ward 3 City Council vacancy failed by a vote of 2-4 (Councilmembers Watkins, Rogers, Bullock and Miller opposed).

Councilmember Watkins went on record to say that today's meeting is scheduled for the purpose of conducting interviews of the Ward 3

candidates and all five (5) appear to be eligible. She noted Richard Joyner has not yet lived in Ward 3 for thirty (30) days, but is well known in the community, city and throughout the region for his work in the community and would bring quite a bit to the Board, if selected. She added that Mr. Joyner has established relationships and has a proven track record in Ward 3 working as a pastor and a community leader.

Mayor Combs stated all candidates are eligible to be interviewed, no decisions will be made today and welcomed the first candidate to the interview process at 10:26 a.m. Candidates Bronson Williams, Gwen Wilkins and Nellene Richardson were interviewed.

**RECESS**

By consensus, the meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:52 a.m.

**RECONVENED**

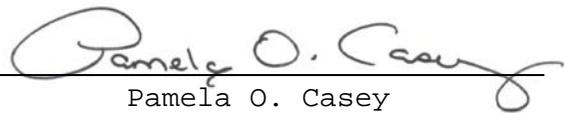
The Mayor reconvened the meeting in session at 12:33 p.m. with all Councilmembers, the City Manager and City Clerk present.

The interview process resumed and candidates Richard Joyner and Tamisha Patterson were interviewed with the interviews concluding at 1:39 p.m.

Discussion was held among the councilmembers and staff was instructed to place consideration of the appointment on both the Committee of the Whole work session agenda and the regular meeting agenda for Monday, May 14, 2018.

**REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the City Council meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

  
Pamela O. Casey  
City Clerk