

October 8, 2018

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, Richard Joyner, 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; Chris Beschler and Natasha Hampton-Clayton, Assistant City Managers; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Jeffery Walston, Human Relations Specialist; JoSeth Bocook, Interim Director of Development Services; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officer: Police Sergeant Edwin Collins.

The Mayor opened the meeting and called on Councilmember Reuben Blackwell, IV to offer prayer.

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 special called emergency meeting held September 12, 2018 and a regular rescheduled meeting of the City Council held September 24, 2018 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

DISABILITY AWARENESS AND EMPLOYMENT MONTH

The Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming the month of October 2018 as Disability Awareness & Employment Month in the City of Rocky Mount. The Council was advised that each year the Commission partners with other community organizations in sponsoring events to highlight services for the disabled community. They were informed that this year's activities include: Bowling for Disabilities (a collaboration effort between the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation and the Bowling Center) which will take place on October 27, 2018. It is hoped the event will raise awareness, share resources and raise funds for the Curtis Dew, Jr. Scholarship fund.

The Mayor presented the proclamation to Human Relations Director Archie Jones; Human Relations Specialist Jeffery Walston; and the following members of the Mayors Commission on Persons with Disabilities: Lee Gaskins, Robert E. Cordell, Sr. and Richard Arnow and he and City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney joined them for a photograph.

The Mayor thanked the members of the Mayors Commission on Persons with Disabilities for their service in the community.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1978 SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE

Consideration was given to a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the 1978 sanitation workers strike. The Mayor summarized the following resolution:

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1978 SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE

WHEREAS, Alexander Evans of the Bloomer Hill Community, Whitakers, North Carolina, was employed by the City of Rocky Mount as a sanitation worker beginning in February 1977 and was soon given the nickname "Preacher" Evans by his co-workers because of his deep Christian faith and his ministry to give food and clothes to those in need as well as lead co-workers in morning prayer before work; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky Mount *Evening Telegram* featured these aspects of Mr. Evans' character in a People profile article on him on November 25, 1977; and Alexander Evans became a leader among the sanitation workers in speaking out about unsafe conditions when required to work in the snow and also protesting the City's mandate that required workers to donate a days' pay to United Way; and

WHEREAS, sanitation workers had long been instructed by management that any items left within a five-foot vicinity of trash cans could be picked up by the workers; and on June 20, 1978 Alexander Evans picked up a suit of clothes left by the trash cans at a residence in the Englewood neighborhood for the purpose of donating the clothes to the needy, as was his ministry; and thereafter the residents complained to the City that a suit of clothes had been "stolen"; and

WHEREAS, when informed of this complaint, Mr. Evans returned the suit of clothes to his supervisor the next day; and due to subsequent calls from the residents alleging that other items were missing which Mr. Evans denied taking, on July 5, Mr. Evans was suspended from his job for two days and charged with misdemeanor larceny by the City of Rocky Mount; and

WHEREAS, when his co-workers heard of Evans' suspension, the sanitation workers did not start to work on July 10, 1978 and demanded a meeting with the City Manager to request he drop the charges against Mr. Evans; and on July 11, 1978, workers once again did not start to work until they had a meeting with the City Manager; and workers were given the understanding that the Mayor, City Manager and Human Relations Director would see that charges against Mr. Evans were dropped before going to District Court; and when workers learned that charges against Mr. Evans had not been dropped as promised by Monday, July 24, and he was scheduled for District Court on July 27, workers walked off the job on Tuesday, July 25, and demanded charges dropped and an apology from the City; and

WHEREAS, workers and their supporters in the Concerned Citizens Association, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, NAACP and others staged a march from the Weeks Armstrong project through the community and a rally at Tom Stith Park on Sunday, July 30, 1978; and workers were reinstated by the City on July 31 and returned to work on Tuesday, August 1, and continued efforts to secure justice for Mr. Evans demanding that charges be dropped, and that Mr. Evans receive an apology from the City; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Evans' court date at District Court was continued from July 27 to August 3 to August 10; and on August 10, Mr. Evans was found guilty of misdemeanor larceny in District Court, whereupon he appealed his case to Superior Court; and workers walked off the job again on Monday, August 14 in protest of the District Court ruling and continued on strike until August 31; and the Concerned Citizens Association announced a boycott of downtown Rocky Mount businesses until Mr. Evans was exonerated and reinstated in his job; and workers and community supporters staged a march from City Lake to Tom Stith Park on Sunday, August 20, that was attended by over 1,000 people; and

WHEREAS, after negotiations with the City Manager, the workers agreed to return to work without retaliation; and the Concerned Citizens Association released a press statement on August 30, 1978 outlining the condition of the workers' return to work and also outlining future goals of the movement, one of which was to change the unfair method of electing City Council, which underrepresented the 40% black population of the City; and

WHEREAS, a Unification rally was held at Tom Stith Park on September 3; and on September 25, Alexander Evans' case came before Nash County Superior Court and many sanitation workers did not work that day in order to attend the trial in support of Mr. Evans, and carried a floor model color television set into the court room as evidence of items residents left by the trash for sanitation workers to pick up; and

WHEREAS, after just fifteen minutes of deliberation, the jury found Mr. Evans **not guilty**; and Alexander Evans returned to work and continued to work for City of Rocky Mount until he retired in 1996; and

WHEREAS this worker strike and community support movement from July 10 to September 25, 1978 is considered the major civil rights and labor struggle in Rocky Mount history; and the community came together to see that justice was served and challenged racial discrimination in the City of Rocky Mount and improvements were made in the wake of this strike; and

WHEREAS, the 1983 voting rights suit of Naomi Green, et. al. vs. the City of Rocky Mount resulted in a fair and racially proportional ward system by which the Rocky Mount City Council is elected, which is still in effect today; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1978 Rocky Mount Sanitation Workers Strike and the Phoenix Historical Society will sponsor an educational program on Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 1 p.m. at the BTW Community Center, 727 Pennsylvania Avenue, on the Significance of this Movement for Eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rocky Mount desires to recognize the courage and determination of sanitation workers who risked their jobs for justice for a co-worker unfairly accused and stood fast with their community supporters in the face of the City administration at that time which failed to do the right thing to resolve this issue with Mr. Evans and the workers; and the result of this struggle exonerated Alexander Evans from the charge of larceny and improved the condition of workers at the City of Rocky Mount; and, as expressed in the CCA press statement of August 30, 1978, "the suffering of the sanitation workers and of the Rocky Mount community is a price that must be paid for democratic government and freedom."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Rocky Mount does hereby recognize that the actions of the sanitation workers and the supporting organizations in 1978 made an improvement in racial justice in Rocky Mount.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that **Resolution R-2018-49** entitled **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1978 SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE** be adopted.

**NOTE: The above resolution includes amendment referred to in the Petitions from the Public.*

Mayor Combs recognized Jim Wrenn, Mrs. Alexander Evans and members of the Phoenix Society and presented the framed resolution to Mrs. Evans. The Mayor, City Manager and Councilmembers joined Mr. Wrenn, Mrs. Evans and the Phoenix Society members for a photograph.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Combs opened the meeting for petitions from the public and recognized the following individuals:

Samuel Battle:

- Reiterated his desire to see boxing added to the list of activities provided for the youth of Rocky Mount; and
- requested support from the City for a group of young boys involved in kickboxing

Reverend Thomas L. Walker:

- Thanked the City Council for the Resolution Recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the Sanitation Workers' Strike in 1978; and commended James Wrenn and The Phoenix Society; and

- Asked for supporters of The Phoenix Society to stand and approximately 25 people stood

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the resolution entitled **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1978 SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE*** adopted earlier in this meeting be amended to include an apology by the City.

Troy Davis:

- Voiced his disapproval of tabling action relative to Event Center parking; and
- Voiced disapproval of the lack of work done on urgent repair programs suggesting the Council look at staffing needs

Garland Jones:

- Requested a street closing (this matter was referred to the City Manager's Office)

Stacey Graham:

- Provided a packet of information to the Council and complained about the lack from response from Animal Control over the weekend;
- Said Animal Control needs expanded hours and a cooperative partnership with local rescue groups along with an updated animal response policy

Morrie Minges:

- Requested "Petitions from the Public" be renamed "Citizen Concerns";
- Complained that she has no trash or recycling bins; and
- Complained about the Ebony and Ivory Club building being in disrepair.

Felix Cadena:

- Requested Council support of youth kickboxing stating he is assisting in coaching currently and several youths winning tournaments out of state are in attendance with him this evening; and
- Said he knows firsthand about gang violence and wants kids off the street

Jim Wrenn:

- Thanked the City Council for supporting the work of the Phoenix Society to promote history; and
- Invited those present to an event on Saturday, October 13, at 1 p.m. at the BTW Center

Saladin Muhammad:

- Congratulated the Council for adopting the Resolution Recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the Sanitation Workers' Strike in 1978 and thanked them for supporting the work of The Phoenix Society; and
- Stated Alexander Evans was a leader in his community and this was not just a workers' strike but a community strike because the community stood with him

ASSESSMENTS/HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT/PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to assessments proposed to be levied to recover costs incurred by the City in connection with Housing Code Enforcement on the following properties:

- 1617 S. Church Street
- 506 S. Franklin Street
- 526 Gay Street
- 421 S. Grace Street

e. 1014 Sunset Avenue

No one from the public appeared relative to the assessments and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2018-50** entitled **RESOLUTION CONFIRMING ASSESSMENTS** be adopted.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/NASH-ROCKY MOUNT SCHOOLS RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney provided the City Council with an updated Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Rocky Mount and the Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools for the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program for the provision of six (6) school resource officers. The Council was advised that a change in leadership for the Nash-Rocky Mount School System prompted the amendment and the only change to the previous agreement is an update of the current officials.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the updated Memorandum of Understanding with Nash-Rocky Mount Schools be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

The updated Memorandum of Understanding will be filed with the original contract (**C-2017-44**) in the City Clerk's Office.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/BACKUP PSAP CONSTRUCTION

The City Council received an ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 Annual Operating Budget by appropriating an additional \$88,603 in the General Fund for the carry forward of expenditures for the backup public safety answering point (PSAP) facility originally encumbered and unspent in FY 2017-2018 and reducing appropriations by \$394,816 in the Emergency Telephone (E911) Fund to correct a mistake and reverse appropriations made in an ordinance adopted by Council on September 10, 2018.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2018-88** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FOR BACKUP PSAP CONSTRUCTION** be adopted.

PARKING AREA DEVELOPMENT AND SHARED USE AGREEMENT WITH EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By consensus, consideration of the Parking Area Development and Shared Use Agreement with Edgecombe Community College was removed from the agenda.

STREET CLOSING/INSTRUMENT DRIVE (FROM US 301 TO TANNER ROAD) AND DELETION OF COLLEGE ROAD FROM STATE MAINTAINED ROAD SYSTEM

The City Council was informed that the City has received a request from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the permanent closure of portions of Instrument Drive from US 301 to Tanner Road in conjunction with the upcoming development of the CSX intermodal hub (CCX).

Council was also advised that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has also requested that the City request the Division of Highways to review College Road in Edgecombe County and delete the said road from the State Maintained Secondary Road System relative to the CCX Carolina Connector Intermodal Rail Terminal.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:

- 1) **Resolution No. R-2018-51** entitled **RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE A PORTION OF INSTRUMENT DRIVE** (schedules a public hearing for November 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.; and
- 2) **Resolution No. R-2018-52** entitled **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A REQUEST BY THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT) FOR DELETION OF A PORTION OF COLLEGE ROAD (SR 1403) FROM THE STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM.**

CORRECTION TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

The Mayor stated that the City Council received the minutes from a regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held September 10, 2018 at the September 24, 2018 City Council meeting and a motion was made to correct the minutes and approve them, as amended. He noted it has been agreed by Council that the minutes were, in fact, not incorrect and the following action was taken:

A Motion made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Knight unanimously carried to rescind the Motion to amend the minutes and approve the minutes as amended, on September 24, 2018.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that a 5th and 6th Design District be included in the Wayfinding process (on the east side of the City).

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular Re-Scheduled Committee of the Whole held Monday, September 10, 2018 as originally written. The approved minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF A REGULAR RE-SCHEDULED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE FREDERICK E. TURNAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

E. Lois Watkins, Mayor Pro Tem
 André D. Knight
 Tom Rogers
 W.B. Bullock
 Chris Miller
 David W. Combs, Mayor
 Reuben C. Blackwell, IV
 Richard Joyner*
 Tom Rogers
 W. B. Bullock
 Chris Miller
 David W Combs, Mayor

STAFF PRESENT:

Rochelle D. Small-Toney
 Pamela O. Casey
 Chris Beschler
 Tameka Kenan-Norman
 Brad Kerr
 Steve Yetman
 Jonathan Boone
 Amy Staton
 Kim Batts
 Tanika Cooper
 Richard J. Rose

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Reuben C. Blackwell, IV
 Richard Joyner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Moira Mis O'Polka, Corbin Design
 Jeff Frank, Corbin Design
 Charles Penny
 Dave Ireys, President, TCCP
 Lannie Shuff, Immediate Past President TCCP

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem E. Lois Watkins called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Mayor Pro Tem Watkins explained the guidelines for Committee of the Whole Meetings and called on City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney to introduce the agenda items.

The City Manager thanked the City Council for approving the change in time for the Committee of the Whole meeting in order to start an hour early.

She called on Brad Kerr, Director of Engineering, to provide an update relative to Wayfinding Analysis and Design Concepts.

WAYFINDING ANALYSIS AND DESIGN CONCEPTS - Brad Kerr

Director of Engineering Brad Kerr thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide additional information relative to the wayfinding process. He stated receiving concurrence or direction from the Council to move forward with the proposed recommendations for sign design and the districting plan in order to transition into the System Design phase of the Wayfinding project would be helpful following today's presentation.

He provided a PowerPoint presentation overview of the wayfinding recommendations included four proposed destination districts to be used as the basis for the system design as well as two conceptual design alternatives for the wayfinding system signs as follows:

- Vehicular circulation plan and districting
 - Four (4) district are recommended as a basis for wayfinding: Downtown, Mills, Sports Complex and Gateway District (these would direct visitors to the districts with destinations being identified within the districts)
 - Would direct first time and infrequent visitors to locations for shopping, dining and recreational activities
 - The destinations would be public destinations (not individual business locations)
 - Signage would be adaptable
- Downtown and Event Center routing plan
- Images and sign array for Concepts 1 and 2 were shown
- Return on Investment was discussed

Mr. Kerr responded to questions from the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Miller stated she approves of boasting the Downtown but does not want to disadvantage businesses not located within the Downtown.

Mr. Kerr introduced Corbin Design Group consultants, Jeff Frank and Moira Mis O'Polka.

Councilmember Knight voiced concern with all four recommended districts being on the west side of the City and no district identified on the east side. Mr. Kerr and Mr. Frank noted that districts can be added when an area has enough destinations and activities.

Councilmember Knight replied he is unable to approve a recommendation which only identifies districts on the west side of the City.

Mr. Kerr and Mr. Frank further explained the wayfinding districts and reported that districts can be added. Mr. Knight indicated he would like to see signage on the east side of the City at the same time as it is installed west side. He recommended a fifth district (perhaps named the African American Cultural District) be added on the east side of the City. Councilmember Bullock added that Oakwood is a well-known destination on the east side of the City.

Mr. Kerr told the Council the signage would begin at Highway 64 and bring visitors into the districts further directing them to destinations. He added the signage is not a final design, but a preliminary analysis.

He showed two conceptual designs with modules that can be modified.

Discussion continued. Mr. Kerr stated staff recommends approval of the four districts with destination signage.

*Councilmember Joyner arrived.

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney clarified that the request from Council is for a fifth free standing design district and Councilmember Knight concurred suggesting the fifth district be placed near Atlantic Avenue, East Grand and East Raleigh Boulevard.

The Engineering Director reported staff will look at available options and report back to the Council. He added the Douglas Block District has been a consideration.

Councilmember Rogers noted he has always considered Highway 43 as a major roadway coming into the City from the east and Mr. Kerr responded it has not been identified as a major route for visitors to the Event Center.

Councilmember Watkins suggested the motto "the center of it all" be added to the signage.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Kerr noted that interstate signs will follow state highway standards and placement of signs will be a part of the upcoming phases once Council has approved the concept.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *By consensus the City Council gave approval for staff to proceed towards system design with the condition that a fifth district be added on the east side of the City at the same time as the four recommended districts; that Concept Number One be selected for design of signage; and that Council receive further information as to the masterplan at the October Committee of the Whole meeting.*

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - TWIN COUNTY HALL OF FAME (TWIN COUNTY COMMUNITY PRIDE) AND ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER - Charles Penny

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney provided the City Council with a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Twin County Community Pride, Inc. (TCCP) for the installation of the Twin County Hall of Fame portraits in the Rocky Mount Event Center (RMEC). The City Manager called on Charles Penny with CW Penny Consulting, LLC to further explain the terms of the agreement and answer questions.

Mr. Penny explained that the agreement has been shared with and approved by the Board of the Twin County Community Pride. He introduced Dave Irey, President of the TCCP, and Immediate Past President, Lannie Shuff, who expressed approval of the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Penny outlined the major terms of the Memorandum of Understanding to be:

- Term of agreement is for a five-year period from November 1, 2018 through November 1, 2023
- City will:
 - Provide space for TCCP's portraits to be housed at the RMEC in the pre-function area;

- Provide a secure environment for TCCP's portraits in the RMEC;
 - Provide reasonable access for visitors to see TCCP's portraits in the RMEC;
 - Not charge admission to see TCCP's portraits;
 - Ensure TCCP's portraits are displayed in a professional manner;
 - Take every reasonable means to ensure TCCP's portraits are not damaged due to any negligence on the City's part;
 - Notify the TCCP Board of Directors of any issues with the conditions of the portraits;
 - Maintain liability insurance on its facility; and
 - The Rocky Mount City Council, at its discretion, will determine the amount of assistance it wishes to provide to TCCP for the event at the RMEC on a year to year basis.
- Twin County Community Pride, Inc. will:
 - Provide RMEC's architect approved digital portraits to be displayed in the pre-function area of the RMEC;
 - Be responsible for installation costs of the TCCP portraits by a professional contractor to ensure the portraits are displayed securely at the highest degree of museum quality;
 - Provide annual financial support to cover the costs of the new TCCP portraits installed at the RMEC;
 - Provide property insurance on the portrait collection and provide a copy of the Certificate of Insurance;
 - Cover the costs for the annual Induction and Banquet event and other events;
 - Apply for the non-profit subsidy provided in accordance with the guidelines established by the City;
 - Vacate the current TCCP location at the Helen P. Gay Train Station within sixty (60) days, subject to the terms in Section II, paragraph 11 of the agreement;
 - Store any of TCCP's artifacts, files and memorabilia at a location away from the Train Station and the RMEC;
 - Provide TCCP portraits by induction year to ensure the appropriate display of the artwork at the RMEC; and
 - Enter into a contract to have TCCP portraits made and installed at the RMEC, upon securing appropriate grant/grants funding.

In addition, the TCCP may provide docents to assist guests as they visit the TCCP portrait collection during major events and high traffic times.

The agreement can be terminated with a 12-month notice, subject to mutual agreement by the parties.

Mr. Penny advised the 128 portraits would be displayed in the pre-function area near the banquet rooms and there is room for additional portraits for five or six years. Councilmember Rogers stated it is important that the portraits are prominently displayed. Mr. Penny added the new format will look nice and the size and quality can be read easily.

Councilmember Miller stated that the TCCP would incur cost for all artifacts currently displayed at the Train Station to be placed in storage and for the cost of new renderings of the portraits (placement on portrait size aluminum-type medium) to be displayed in the Event Center. She agreed that the TCCP has outgrown the Train Station, but due to the increased expense she does not believe the agreement benefits the TCCP.

Councilmember Rogers stated the TCCP has done a great job recognizing contributions by individuals from the two counties and expressed a desire for the City to engage with the TCCP and have proactive discussions relative to a long-term solution for display of the TCCP artifacts.

Councilmember Knight added there has been conversation about displaying other exhibits throughout the Event Center.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the Memorandum of Agreement be recommended for approval and added to the agenda for today's regular scheduled City Council Meeting for consideration.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS - Pam Casey

City Clerk Pam Casey provided the Council with personal history forms received since the Boards and Commissions Booklet was provided to them.

Mayor Pro Tem Lois Watkins stated there has been discussion among Councilmembers noting a desire for a review of the appointment process for Boards and Commissions. She noted some members of the Council feel there is a disconnect between the Boards and Commissions and the Council and that Council is not receiving information from the Boards and/or Commissions. She added some Boards/Commissions have staff assigned and others do not and requested this item be deferred to allow more time for discussion and consideration of the appointment process.

The Mayor responded that some Boards/Commissions need additional discussion and consideration due to more strict requirements, but some appointments can more easily be made. He said there has at times been challenges with identifying individuals to serve on some of the Boards which require certain skills and criteria such as the CCRP.

Councilmember Miller questioned if it is the intent to delay appointments to all Boards/Commissions or just to some. She said she is aware of the intent behind delaying appointments to the CCRP. She added that each Councilmember has had an opportunity through the years to make appointments to the CCRP with full Council approval. She added that what is happening is individuals have served on the panel for many years who have wanted to see the Downtown grow and now that the Downtown is growing and property is being purchased some Councilmembers feel the Board needs to be reorganized.

The Mayor Pro Tem stated that based on her communication with Council the request is due to some members receiving meeting requests from Downtown merchants, stakeholders and others who feel the lines of communication need to be open with Councilmembers and not about diminishing power of the current board.

Mayor Combs indicated it is important to look at Council's goals when making appointments to Boards/Commissions. He suggested reviewing each Board and working to make some appointments now and continuing discussion for those needing further conversation.

Councilmember Rogers asked the City Manager if there has been Council oversight of Boards/Commissions in other places she has served. The Manager responded she has seen a much tighter process where Council conducts interviews and there is a requirement for reporting to the Council to establish a direct connection between the Boards/Commission and the Councilmembers to ensure they are working towards Council's goals and objectives.

Mayor Pro Tem Watkins recommended that staff review the process for appointments to Boards/Commissions.

Discussion continued.

Councilmember Bullock stated that in the past Council has received notice of meetings and can choose to attend should they wish. The City Attorney provided information relative to the open meetings law.

The Mayor Pro Tem suggested the Clerk's Office and City Manager's office provide research as to the process in other cities and a review of the process and how it lines up with the goals and mission of the City Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, and unanimously carried that the Clerk's Office and Manager's Office review the appointment process and make recommendations for how to improve communication between the Council and the Boards/Commissions and that appointments be deferred until the October 8, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CLOSED SESSION. The City Manager requested a Closed Session for matters concerning attorney client privilege and personnel.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 5:32 p.m.

The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as **ESM-502** at the end of **Minute Book 34** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURN. The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee in regular session at 6:57 p.m. and, there being no further business for the Committee of the Whole, by consensus, the meeting adjourned.

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

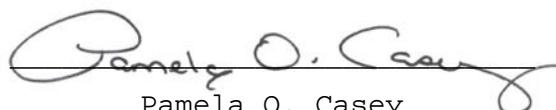
CLOSED SESSION (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Manager requested a Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the City Council go into a Closed Session at 8:02 p.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as ESM-505 at the end of Minute Book 34 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor convened the City Council in regular session at 8:40 p.m. and there being no further business, the City Council meeting adjourned.



Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk