

December 12, 2018

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular rescheduled session at 7:04 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; Dr. Landis Faulcon, Community and Business Development Director; Todd Gardner, Transit System Manager; Elayne Henderson, Director of Human Resources; Amy Staton, Director of Finance; Nicki Gurganus, Accounting Manager; Willie Williams, Interim Police Chief; Lori Cairo, Chief Internal Auditor; Amy Marion, Assistant Director of Human Resources; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Ronnie Raper, Assistant Fire Chief; Brad Kerr, Director of Engineering; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager; Marty Clay, George Robinson and Michael Paul, Police Captains; Harrison McDaniel, Police Sergeant; Don Mosley, John Feagans and Charles Williams, Police Lieutenants; Jarrod Edmonds, Police Sergeant; Yvette Jones, Police Community Services Manager; Mike Whitley, Police Captain; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; Tanika Cooper, Executive Secretary, City Manager's Office; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

The Mayor opened the meeting and called on Councilmember Tom Rogers to offer prayer.

#### **WELCOME**

Mayor Combs 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 regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held November 26, 2018 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

#### **PRESENTATION/LUTHER BARNES**

The Mayor reported that due to the meeting being changed from Monday evening to Wednesday evening because of inclement weather, Mr. Barnes was unable to attend tonight's meeting and has requested this matter be postponed until the January 14, 2019 meeting.

By consensus, this matter was deferred until the January 14, 2019 meeting of the City Council.

**PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT/COMP STAT REVIEW - POLICE (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)**

**1. CRIME STATS - Police Sergeant Harrison McDaniel**

Police Lieutenant Charles Williams introduced Police Captain Harrison McDaniel. Sergeant McDaniel presented a Crime Stat report reflecting crime statistics through November 30, 2018.

He noted the following:

- percentage of change represents reductions in each category;
- the men and women of the Police Department have done an excellent job;
- in 25% of murders, rapes and robberies the parties are known to each other; they are often domestic crimes;
- report card was implemented to encourage citizens to remove valuable items from car interiors to make their vehicles less susceptible to crime;
- education was provided to residents and businesses relative to armed robberies, especially during holidays;

Discussion was held relative to crime reporting and Council was advised that the police department uses national guidelines for crime reporting controlled by the FBI (federal guidelines) for the for Rocky Mount's four districts (north, south, east and west).

**2. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS - Police Lieutenant Don Moseley**

Interim Chief Willie Williams told the Council the focus of this presentation is on homicides. He explained that the Cold Case Unit (consisting of retired officers) reviewed 8 cold case homicides, identifying and testing DNA in one case and developing a witness in another. He stated 28 groups of IBIS shell casings were reviewed (in Cumberland County) and matched to 109 individual acts of violence.

Police Lieutenant Don Moseley told the Council the Police Department has now purchased the software used by Cumberland County to review shell casings and hope to implement the software in 2019 (waiting for a line to be hardwired into the facility).

Council was advised that case assignment through November 30, 2018 has a 64% clearance rate, the highest since the late 1990's).

**3. SPECIAL OPERATIONS - Police Sergeant Jarrod Edmonds**

Sergeant Edmonds told the City Council that the Special Operations Unit investigates complaints of nuisance consisting of:

- Citizen complaints;
- Quality of life issues;
- Violent crime deterrence; and
- Raided nuisance residences.

He said the mission is to improve quality of life in neighborhoods and deter crime and a positive effect has been noticed. He added that undercover officers are sometimes used.

In response to a question relative to gang activity, Interim Chief Williams told the Council while the City does have a gang problem it is no worse than any other city in North Carolina and quite a few have been taken off the streets. He added there is still work to be done and noted a direct correlation between poverty and crime. He stated Rocky Mount is as safe as or safer than any city east of I-95.

4. SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION - Police Community Services Manager, Yvette Jones

Mrs. Jones outlined the following 2018 Community Outreach Programs of the Police Department:

- Chat with the Chief - held at 13 locations
- Inaugural Clergy Police Academy - 23 local faith-based leaders
- 2018 Junior Police Academy - 26 teenagers
- CPA 20-Year Anniversary Celebration - 125 CPA alumni
- Rocky Mount Police Explorer Post #774 - 19 explorer members (traveled to Gatlinburg, TN and Goldsboro, NC for competitions)
- 2018 National Night Out - 20 events (first Tuesday in August)
- Coffee with a Copy - 6 locations (local businesses and churches)
- Ride Along Program - 72 participants (includes teens)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt - 184 participants (partnered with school system and Parks and Recreation)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Identification Event - 120 participants (in partnership with DownEast Partnership for Children)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Blue Shirt day - 22 NRMS participated
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pack a Patrol Car - served 15 families
- Community Meetings - 28
- Special Events - 110
- Presentations - 96

Interim Chief Willie Williams asked for a round of applause for the Department and stated he has worked in 40 police agencies and has found none better than the Rocky Mount Police Department and they are second to none.

He added that work is ongoing to take guns off the street, but it is important that the community be told that the Rocky Mount community is safe and the Department works hard to keep the city safe. He said it needs to be publicized more so it will become safe "in the eyes" of others.

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney thanked Interim Chief Willie Williams for his service as interim chief for the past year. She stated he came out of retirement to serve the City of Rocky Mount in this position. She told the City Council a "send off" is being planned for Interim Chief Williams.

The Manager noted the first round of interviews did not produce a viable candidate and the process will start again in January 2019.

She stated she has appointed Captain George Robinson to serve as the Interim Chief and that he will be sworn in effective January 1, 2019.

Captain Robinson addressed the Council and stated he loves this City, is passionate about his job and committed to ensuring the community remains safe. He expressed appreciation for this opportunity.

Mayor Combs thanked the Police Department for what they do each and every day.

**PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**Stacy Graham** provided the Mayor and Council with a packet of books relative to animals. She stated that a few months ago she spoke to Council about the correlation of violent crimes and children witnessing

crimes against their families as well as animals. She said there are additional factors for children and every child needs to know they are valued.

She stated that her message tonight is simple and that she, along with the partnership of the Animal Welfare Institute, are providing Council with children's books and asking them to take 10 minutes to read to a child in their life and then donate the books to a local school or daycare. She added that Braswell Memorial Library has accepted copies of all of the books and have them on their shelves.

**Randy Adcox** stated he is glad he came tonight as he was impressed by the numbers in the Police Department presentation and commended them on their efforts. He voiced disappointment that a new chief could not be identified from the current City staff in the Police Department and said if the tools do not exist to provide officers with what they need to achieve a goal of becoming chief, such a program should be implemented.

**RESOLUTION REMEMBERING AND HONORING/RETIRED POLICE CAPTAIN**

The Mayor read a Resolution remembering and honoring recently deceased retired Rocky Mount Police Captain Milton Harris who served the City of Rocky Mount for twenty-nine (29) years.

Mayor Combs stated that the City Council informally approved this Resolution earlier so that it could be presented to the family members at the funeral.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the action taken pursuant to a poll of the City Council to approve the resolution be formally ratified and that **Resolution R-2018-57** entitled **RESOLUTION REMEMBERING AND HONORING RETIRED ROCKY MOUNT POLICE CAPTAIN MILTON HARRIS** be approved and adopted to read as follows:

**RESOLUTION REMEMBERING AND HONORING  
RETIRED ROCKY MOUNT POLICE CAPTAIN MILTON HARRIS**

WHEREAS, Milton Harris, served the City of Rocky Mount from February 3, 1969 until his retirement on December 31, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Milton Harris, rose through the ranks in the Rocky Mount Police Department having initially served as Sergeant, being promoted to Lieutenant and retiring with the rank of Police Captain after serving the City of Rocky Mount for twenty-nine (29) years; and

WHEREAS, Milton Harris performed his duties with dignity and courage and was committed to the citizens of the City of Rocky Mount and to the City organization; and

WHEREAS, Milton Harris cared deeply for his fellowman and his community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount is desirous of honoring the memory of former Police Captain Milton Harris.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Rocky Mount, hereby honors the memory of retired Police Captain Milton Harris, and individually and collectively, expresses heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to the entire Harris Family.

**AD VALOREM TAX RELEASES**

The City Council received the following schedules of ad valorem taxes recommended for release and/or refund:

**SCHEDULE A – 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>
<b><u>EDGEcombe COUNTY</u></b>					
2017	18325	MOORE, HAMILTON D JR 627 HIGHLAND AVE ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	79.83	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>79.83</b>		
2018	18310	MOORE, HAMILTON D JR 627 HIGHLAND AVE ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	82.86	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>82.86</b>		

**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>
<b><u>EDGEcombe COUNTY</u></b>					
2018	24335	WHITAKER, WILLIAM C 15 BLK I FLAGMARSH HILLS SEC ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	263.91	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>263.91</b>		

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the report from the City Manager of taxes under \$100 listed on Schedule A approved for release and/or refund be acknowledged; and that the taxes over \$100 listed on Schedule B be approved for release and/or refund.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/2015 HOME PROGRAM REPAYMENT**

The City Council received an ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget to appropriate an additional \$178,187 in the General Fund for repayment of 2015 HOME Programs, as directed by a recent desk monitoring review by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2018-95** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FOR 2015 HOME GRANT REPAYMENT** be adopted.

**PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/FY 2017 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG17)**

The City Council received an ordinance appropriating the FY 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (\$49,654) in the Public Safety Fund. This Ordinance establishes accounts for receipt and

expenditure of JAG grant funds - Nash County share: \$19,862; City share: \$29,792. The Council was advised that the grant was approved on September 25, 2017; however, the appropriation was delayed due to Supreme Court litigation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2018-96** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE** be adopted.

**BENEFITS CONTRACT AMENDMENTS**

A. Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)

The City Council was advised that biometric screenings were moved from April 2018 to August 2018 to accommodate the change in health insurance carriers and allow for accurate information to be provided to employees. They were further advised that funding of the HRA accounts moved from July 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> as a result of the change and the plan document needs to be amended to reflect the change in when accounts are to be funded.

B. Piedmont Pharmaceutical Care Network (HealthMapRx Services)

The City Council was provided with a contract renewal for the provision of HealthMapRx services to include the "Alternative Method" for premium incentive rate to be effective from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021). Council was advised the annual charges for 312 participants is approximately \$241,488 and the additional of a potential 42 persons at the premium incentive rate alternative is \$12,600.

C. COBRA Administrator Vendor Change

It was recommended that the City switch from Interactive Medical (IMS) to Flexible Benefits Administration (FBA) as the COBRA Administrator. Council was advised that FBA will work with the online benefits enrollment system (Selerix) provided by the City's broker, Mark III. It was explained that the current vendor does not wish to partner with Selerix and the change will represent a savings of \$145; however, there will be an initial charge for setup in the new system of \$200.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the benefits amendments be approved, as recommended; and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the appropriate document(s) on behalf of the City.

**ANNEXATION NO. 312/FELLOWSHIP OF PRAISE CHURCH OF GOD/3201 BENVENUE ROAD**

The City Clerk provided the City Council with a resolution certifying the petition submitted by Gary V. Bradley on behalf of Fellowship of Praise Church of God as sufficient to proceed with annexation of the non-contiguous parcel pursuant to NCGS 160A-58.1, following approval of the Annexation Agreement with the Town of Dortches entered into on August 13, 2018.

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

and that the Department of Development Services be instructed to prepare a feasibility study in connection with the annexation:

- a. **Resolution No. R-2018-58** entitled **RESOLUTION OF CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF A NON-CONTIGUOUS AREA BY CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT/ANNEXATION NO. 312 - FELLOWSHIP OF PRAISE CHURCH OF GOD/3201 BENVENUE ROAD; and**
- b. **Resolution No. R-2018-59** entitled **RESOLUTION CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT TO INCLUDE ANNEXATION OF A NON-CONTIGUOUS AREA/ANNEXATION NO. 312 - FELLOWSHIP OF PRAISE CHURCH OF GOD/3201 BENVENUE ROAD** (schedules public hearing for January 14, 2019).

**SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL/1992 RESERVE FIRE ENGINE**

The City Council received a request from Fire Chief, Mike Varnell, to declare a 1992 reserve fire engine valued at approximately \$5,000 as surplus to the needs of the Fire Department and approval for the donation of said fire engine to the Nash-Rocky Mount School System (NRMSS) for use in the Firefighter Certification Program at Nash Central High School.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2018-60** entitled **RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING DONATION** be adopted.

**PROPERTY ACQUISITION/618 GREEN AVENUE**

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney advised the Council that the City has received an offer of donation of private property located at 618 Green Avenue to establish a community garden in support of the development of a model food system. Council was advised that Ms. Norma Turnage is the owner of the property consisting of .64 acres and that the property has a tax value of approximately \$16,640.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Bullock and unanimously carried that the donation of 618 Green Avenue be accepted.

**MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/DIRECTIONAL SIGNS - EVENT CENTER**

The City Council was provided with a request by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for approval of a directional signs agreement for the installation of directional signs for the Event Center on US 64 at Atlantic Avenue (Exit 470). It was noted that the City will be responsible for all costs, estimated at \$7,500, incurred by NCDOT for design, fabrication and installation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the municipal agreement (**C-2018-31**) with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (WBS Elements: 36249.3967) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

**MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/SIDEWALK PROJECT**

The City Council was provided with a request by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for approval of an agreement for

Sidewalk Project C-5549 for new sidewalks along sections of West Raleigh Boulevard and South Winstead Avenue. It was explained that the project has been approved for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds and the City will be reimbursed for 80% of eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$688,000. Council was advised the City will be responsible for providing the non-federal match of 20% (\$172,000) based on the total estimated cost of \$860,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the municipal agreement (**C-2018-32**) with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (WBS Elements: 51019.1.1/TIP: C-5549) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

**SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT/RAVENWOOD CROSSING**

The City Council was advised that a subordination agreement is referenced in the deed of trust dated November 14, 2017 as a part of the \$250,000 HOME loan commitment to Ravenwood Crossing Limited Partnership. The City Council was provided with a Subordination Agreement requested by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) subordinating the City's lien to NCHFA's deed of trust providing \$800,000 in permanent financing for the Ravenwood Crossing Project.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that the Subordination Agreement be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute same on behalf of the City.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/IMPROVEMENTS TO ROCKY MOUNT-WILSON (RWI) AIRPORT (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)**

The City Council received an ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget to appropriate an additional \$92,886 in the General Fund for the City's share of providing matching funds for Federal and State Grants for improvements to the Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport (RWI).

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2018-97** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO RWI AIRPORT** be adopted.

The City Council requested that a presentation from the Airport be provided at the January 2019 meeting.

**MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

Mayor Combs called for nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Councilmember Miller nominated Councilmember Tom Rogers for Mayor Pro Tempore for a one-year term to expire December 2019. The nomination was seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously approved.

**CLOSED SESSION (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)**

The City Manager requested a Closed Session to discuss a matter concerning personnel and an attorney-client matter.




Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 8:00 p.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as **ESM-512** at the end of **Minute Book 34** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

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**REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor convened the City in regular session at 8:15 p.m. and there being no further business for regular session, adjourned the meeting.

  
Pamela O. Casey  
City Clerk