

March 11, 2019

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular session scheduled for 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, Tom Rogers, W. B. Bullock and Christine Carroll Miller.

Councilmember absent: E. Lois Watkins.

Staff Present: Rochelle D. Small-Toney*, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Chris Beschler, Assistant City Manager; Jessie Nunery, Media Relations Specialist; Amy Staton, Finance Director; Nicki Gurganus, Accounting Manager; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Elton Daniels, Director of Parks and Recreation; George Robinson, Interim Police Chief; Westlyn Seabreeze, Police Sergeant; Leslie Hudgins, Information Systems Specialist; Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; Brad Kerr, Director of Engineering; Marty Clay, Mike Whitley and Michael Paul, Police Captains; Charles Williams, Police Lieutenant; Don Moseley, Interim Commander (Police); Todd Gardner, Transit System Manager; Kevin Harris, Downtown Development Manager; Cassandra Williams, Administrative Clerk; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officer: Police Sergeant L. S. Parker, Jr.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and called on Councilmember Richard Joyner to offer prayer.

WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed citizens and directed them to copies of the agenda near the entrance of the City Council Chamber.

He stated that Councilmember Watkins has been ill and is recovering and requested she be kept in the thoughts of those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held February 25, 2019 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Combs announced that he has received an e-mail from a family member of Walter "Buck" Leonard requesting that consideration of the house at 605 Atlantic Avenue as a local Historic Landmark be postponed.

*The City Manager arrived

The Mayor outlined the guidelines for petitions from the public and opened the meeting for public petitions. Mayor Combs recognized the following and a summary of comments is outlined below:

- ***Nehemiah Smith, Jr.:***
 - Said there are too many manufactured issues:
 - Residency of Curmilus Dancy as a member of the Human Relations Commission; Mr. Dancy is not a resident of the City; Smith serves on the

Human Relations Commission and understands that the member is the NAACP and Mr. Dancy is their designee

- There is a post that says that an equipment mechanic job with the City pays \$68,000,000 - \$98,000,000; that is almost half the City budget and is a manufactured issue;
 - Said residents need to come together;
 - Said a man cannot serve two masters; if it wasn't right then, it isn't right now or vice visa;
 - Said the City Council has his full support and is doing a great job
- ***Samuel Battle***
 - Said he is here to talk about crime; there needs to be a program in the Police Department to work with the community;
 - Said three gang members got jobs today so that was a good day, but not many folks hire felons;
 - Said blacks and whites need to come together;
 - Said he is still hurting because he is still losing people because kids are getting murdered;
 - Said Wilson is growing faster than Rocky Mount;
 - Said even if this Council has done more Downtown than any other Council, there is more crime in Rocky Mount now than ever
 - Said his friend is running in the election and "may the best man win"
- ***Lige Daughtridg***
 - Said he signed the petition (which has or will be presented to Council) relative to \$5,000 facade grants and is supportive of the grants, with a caveat that all property taxes and fees must be paid and up-to-date; said buildings must be secure for the grant to be effective; and would prefer it be a rebate rather than a grant to someone just because they own property Downtown;
 - Said the Ratio Design study was approved in 2016 for a comprehensive plan of what needs to be done Downtown to make the event center and Downtown successful, but it sits on a shelf still marked draft and cost over \$100,000; he said it is a shame that Ratio Design was also hired for a parking study and recommended a restaurant district where Council has approved putting housing;
 - Asked that the parking studies be implemented, and money paid for studies not be wasted
- ***Dr. Kim E. Koo***
 - Said she is for holding elected officials accountable and is very concerned about the recent attacks by the Telegram on a particular group of people;
 - Said what started out as seeming interest in the welfare of the City has evolved into an attack or focus on one race;
 - Said she was appalled by the March 2 paper which had an article on another person of color, Curmilus Dancy, and while she may or may not agree with the views of that individual his opinions should be protected; said he is not the only person with strong opinions or who uses objectionable language and noted there are others online and in the comments on the Telegram website; said there is a lot of name calling and very objectionable personal language from others and those people have not been singled out;
 - Questioned if the Telegram is trying to silence us or intimidate us from speaking;
 - Said this country has seen an exponential increase of hate crimes starting out with this president's term and all of us need to put a stop to this; she added that only our unity can do this;
 - She said she feels the Telegram should be called out for their irresponsibility and for allowing the continued fanning of racial tensions;
 - Said all of us should be part of a unifying process which includes protecting historically marginalized communities because it's the right thing to do;
 - Said now that new investments are coming and there is an even greater need for not allowing people to be torn apart by increasing racial tensions

- **Robert Carr**
 - Said certain City Councilmember had inside information and made questionable real estate deals that were reported on by the newspaper;
 - Said he thinks the newspaper does a pretty good job of reporting the facts ;
 - Questioned if there will be any consequences of this action which is not criminal but certainly unethical, in his opinion, and questioned if the person who did this thing should resign from the City Council

- **Morrie Minges**
 - Said someone told her there was a water leak at the sports complex this past weekend which prevented use of the bathrooms during a tournament and questioned who takes care of that and why the bathrooms were not checked/repared prior to the tournament being held ;
 - Questioned how Curmilus Dancy's appointment by the NAACP to the Human Relations Commission can promote understanding, respect and harmony due to the rude manner in which he speaks;
 - Questioned if there is a City authority that checks run-down places (and referred to individuals who recently came to a meeting relative to properties saying those properties had been demolished without their knowledge) and said the Ebony and Ivory Club is in disrepair;
 - Questioned why there are Council meetings when it appears Council has sometimes already made decisions as to the agenda items; and
 - Said "don't litter"

- **Stacey Graham**
 - Said there was some movement recently with regard to animal care/control and the animal care shelter has increased its hours by a half hour a day which brings it into state compliance;
 - Said there has been some increased cooperation between rescues and officials and more animals have been receiving medical care but was not encouraged that this happened after someone else filed a state complaint;
 - Said some want a new Police Chief to be selected from within the Police Department but said some in the high echelons of the Police Department may have already absorbed the current culture which is not transparent, and she hopes qualified people apply;
 - Added she hopes the next Police Chief will be willing to look at evidence presented

- **Bronson Williams**
 - Said he remembers hearing in church that a prophet doesn't have honor in his own country and oftentimes things look greener on the other side when you're living in your own situation;
 - Said an internal investigation is under way and yet there are still calls for the City Manager to be fired;
 - Said he remembers hearing some in the community encouraging others to wait until the investigation is complete but there seems to be a rush to judgment in the community causing more chaos and havoc, less unity and more division;
 - Said he is confused how there is a bright future in Rocky Mount and yet the Manager needs to go;
 - Said there are positive things happening in the community and urged the Council to find ways to highlight the growth and development in the City;
 - Thanked the Council for putting together the framework for an audit committee;
 - Encouraged video recording of Council meetings to be recorded live or edited and played later;
 - Said he attended the COW meeting where the façade grant was discussed and heard comments about making the application process easier;
 - Encouraged varying opinions on boards and commissions and said when you put people together who all think the same way nothing gets accomplished

- **Randy Adcox**
 - Said no particular group should be allowed to appoint someone to the Human Relations Commission and the rules need to be followed;

- Said some months ago he reported that the Battleboro Cemetery is in a state of disrepair; someone has told him there has been no change and there are broken headstones and the cemetery needs attention;
 - Said for three weeks in a row he has heard speakers and left dejected after last week's meeting;
 - Said if ever there was a time to come together and put faith in God it is now;
 - Agreed the investigation needs to finish and said the community need to "hold its fire" until this is played out;
 - Said he is disappointed by those in the room and on the Council that tend to want to divide us and frustrated to hear about a darkening of the room saying there has been no appreciable change to the makeup of Council in years and there is zero comparison of what is going on here now and what happened in Wilmington in 1898 and that is a manufactured crisis; said we have to put race aside; no one knows if anything wrong has been done and if those up there are guilty;
 - Said he tips his hat to those waiting for it to play out
- ***Roger Brantley***
 - Said he is here to speak about cold cases because he understands funding has been cut;
 - Said his father served in the military in the Special Forces Green Beret and his uncle was a POW bronze star recipient;
 - Said on July 7, 1990 his aunt was murdered, and his grandmother was beaten and raped; that was 29 years ago, and the case is still unsolved; when he heard funding had been cut for cold cases his family asked him to come and speak;
 - Said he grew up in this neighborhood and City;
 - Said he understands there are 65 cold cases unsolved; makes no sense to cut funding to get people off the street because these men who did that to his aunt and grandmother are still on the street and still in the community and could be in this room;
 - Said he understands there no Chief of Police and you have to have a good strong chief to lead;
 - Said his Dad, uncle and siblings have all passed and went to their graves not knowing what happened to their sister and mother; 29 years is a long time;
 - Said he wonders if 65 cold case is accurate because when he called the Police Department last year he was told "are you sure it happened in Rocky Mount" and was on hold 45 minutes while they searched their computer system; finally found something and said it was still unsolved;
 - Said he hopes the Council will find funding and have people dedicated to cold cases because he does not want others to have to go through what his family has gone through for 29 years not knowing who did that to his aunt and grandmother
- ***Warren Daughtridge***
 - Said after witnessing and hearing recent negative Council addresses, reviewing select recordings of past meetings and being called out for speaking about, of all things, unity, many of them that said these things having pastor and reverend in their title, he is compelled to pose a few questions to Councilmembers and to our community for consideration and response and hopefully for the greater good of the community:
 - Does the Lord that you proclaim to follow require you to wallow in the past, tear down your fellow man with condemning words or to forgive them 70 X 7, if necessary?
 - Does the Lord you profess to follow command you to come into this Chamber and go online to intentionally drive a wedge between two people groups or to go out and proclaim the good news of Christ?
 - Does the Lord you profess to worship teach you to despise other races and besmirch them with seething vitriol or to follow what he says is the second greatest commandment of all which is to love others as yourself?
 - Said as he listens to speeches and reads Facebook posts he cannot help but scratch his head and say "are we studying the same gospel"; "are we thinking, speaking and acting as followers of Christ or for own agenda"; even our fellow citizens that have no faith at all know we can't get along slinging barbs at each other;

- Said he will be the first to admit he has no clue what it is like to walk down the street in the shoes of a black man, but can also tell you they also cannot understand what it is like to walk in his; said he can also admit there is a rift between the groups – one that he has contributed to maybe in the past but also one that he can commit to doing something about today;
 - Said he has a first cousin that gave up everything in his life to move to Kenya to be a missionary and he is making fresh water available to the villages there; a fellow Gryphon from the class of '83 dedicated his life to putting shoes on people around the world who can't afford them; two very dear friends lost their son and have dedicated their lives to making the homeless lives bearable in Charlotte
 - Said up until a few weeks ago he did not know a purpose for himself; said he does know now and that is helping to heal this City; that is going to be his mission and cause;
 - Said he intends to create a group called “Love Rocky Mount”; its guiding verse will be 1 Corinthians 13:13 which is “so now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of them is love.” He said he is convinced that those whose mission it is to continually divide us will eventually fade into the distance but those who choose to work together for the good of all shall ultimately prevail. He added that James 14:11 clearly states we are not to speak evil against each other;
 - Said we cannot heal or make progress by tearing each other down; we can only accomplish great things by working together; and said he hopes people will join him on his journey;
 - Said he looks forward to working with all who are willing to help, learn, heal and prosper together; and may God bless the endeavors
- **Lewis Turner**
 - Said it is a blessing to be here and he will celebrate his 86th birthday on Saturday;
 - Said he is speaking on one issue tonight: Butch Dancy. He said he worked with and mentored him 30-40 years ago and has seen the work he has done; said Dancy organized a group of young men some years ago and members over 30 were not allowed because they were trying to move forward, but they let Turner join though he was in his 50's;
 - Said he has asked Dancy over the years how he manages to come to Rocky Mount and take care of problems spending money out of his own pocket;
 - Said he has traveled all over the state with Dancy to different groups or organizations and no one is more committed
 - Said when Dancy is in Rocky Mount he is representing someone in Rocky Mount who has asked him to come
 - **Natarlin Best**
 - Said she is a local attorney, a resident of Rocky Mount and chair of the Buck Leonard Association for Sports and Human Enrichment which is a not for profit organization committed to the enrichment of local youth as a way to fight against crime and to use sports as a catalyst to get youth involved in other activities;
 - Said Ms. Rose Hunter who is president and CEO of the Buck Leonard trust is present and it would be the position of the trust that it is the trust that is in charge of the Walter “Buck” Leonard House at 605 Atlantic Avenue and that is the legal mechanism of how the house is administered;
 - Said there are designated other offices in that trust; there are no blood relations of Buck Leonard that are heirs of the estate or have any responsibility or control for the Walter “Buck” Leonard Home and this matter has already been reviewed by the Rocky Mount Historic Preservation Commission and it has recommended that the Buck Leonard House be approved as a historic site as a result of the fine representative that Walter “Buck” Leonard was of our community so many years ago as being one of the last members of the Negro League and a fine example of Rocky Mount;
 - Added that the trust requests that the joint public hearing go forward tonight or in the alternative refer the matter back to the Historic Preservation Commission to review the claims of these “family members” who seek to hold up this very needed process

- **Jonathan Hunter**
 - Said he is thankful just as Buck Leonard was thankful to be playing baseball all those years in his life;
 - Said he is the step-grandson of Buck Leonard and this is very personal to him;
 - Said his mother is present and she asked him to come tonight in support of the Buck Leonard house historic designation;
 - Outlined the life of Buck Leonard as follows:
 - Born September 8, 1907 at the corner of Raleigh Road and Grace Street;
 - At the age of 11 became the bread winner of the family because his father passed away and after the funeral his mother told him he would not be able to partake in going away to high school (there was not a high school for Blacks in Rocky Mount at that time) and would have to get a job;
 - He worked at a hosiery mill, as a shoe shine and at the railroad station picking up trash and later became a mechanic putting brake cylinders on boxcars
 - He was a semi-pro baseball player and played in Portsmouth, Virginia in 1932 and he played with the Brooklyn Royal Giants from 1932-1933; and with the Homestead Grays in 1934; he is the only player in the history of Negro League baseball to play with one team 17 years straight, the longest history of tenure in the 40-year history of the Negro League;
 - Said he played with another famous baseball player named Josh Gibson, they were known as the thunder twins, the greatest batting twosome that ever played in the history of baseball; he batted 500 against major league pitching in 8 games and All Star major league pitching in 8 games; he batted 500 at the age of 30; 400 at the age of 40 and has a lifetime batting average of .355 against Negro League players and .382 against major league players; he is ranked number 47 in the history of all baseball players who ever played in the U.S., but may be higher;
 - Said when he came back to Rocky Mount he gave a lot to the City as he was a truant officer for 12 years for the City school system; he was a real estate agent; he built 9 houses from the ground up; was a devout Christian and made it to the Hall of Fame in 1972;
 - Said he deserves this honor; there is a book about him and he is writing a book
- **Jo Ann Jones**
 - Said she is the neighbor that lives and stays beside the Buck Leonard homestead;
 - Said she served on the Board and has worked in the community and knows this family; the family did a great job of giving back to the community; she has seen Ms. Rose Hunter feed hungry children; seen her children become coaches; and seen the City support them;
 - Said she is not too familiar with opposition, but welcomes what this could mean to tourism and it can bring light to little boys and girls;
 - Said she and her husband welcome the designation and said she has a petition with 60 signatures supporting the designation that can bring life and joy for families in Rocky Mount on Atlantic Avenue

The Mayor closed the public petitions portion of the meeting.

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION/THE WALTER "BUCK" LEONARD HOUSE – JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council received a request from the Historic Preservation Commission for designation of the Walter "Buck" Leonard House at 605 Atlantic Avenue as a local historic landmark. It was noted that the public hearing and action on the matter was deferred on February 25, 2019 in order for a joint public hearing of the City Council and the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Mayor opened the joint public hearing relative to consideration of a local historic landmark designation of the Walter "Buck" Leonard House and recognized the following to make comments:

- **Link Alexander:**
 - Thanked all for the opportunity to speak;
 - Said he is one of the coaches for the League; grew up in the City and started playing baseball in 1986 and played until 1994 when he joined the military;
 - Said this past Saturday the League had tryouts; said children need an alternative and baseball could be that alternative; said baseball kept him out of the streets; said approximately 12 kids came on Saturday and added if one child can be saved from the streets it is worth it;
 - Said after the tryouts they took the kids to the Buck Leonard House; said he played baseball from 1986 to 1994 and did not know who Buck Leonard was and that is sad;
 - Said in order to know where we are going we need to know where we come from and it was important to hear the Buck Leonard story; he added black and white children alike were interested in this man from their City who did these great things and it was a joy to be part of that;
 - Said he started coaching last year with the League and they have bi-weekly meetings to try to do things to help in the community and get kids off the streets; he said sports, including baseball, is an opportunity to do this
 - Said not knowing who Buck Leonard was is a disservice to those who play baseball;
 - Said the historic designation is needed to honor his great man

- **Mike Latham:**
 - Said he is chair of the Historic Preservation Commission;
 - Said the motion to make the Buck Leonard home a historic landmark passed unanimously through the Commission and Buck Leonard is one of the greatest people to come out of Rocky Mount and what he did when he came back was great also;
 - Said he was 47th of the top 100th baseball players of all time regardless of the League which makes him one of the best ball players period;
 - Said the Commission is still in favor of the designation and seeing how it goes forward procedurally;
 - Said he will leave it to Council's purview

No one else from the public appeared relative to the historic designation and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. **O-2019-11** entitled **ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE WALTER BUCK LEONARD HOUSE AS A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK** be adopted. A copy of this Ordinance shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk, the Register of Deeds in Edgecombe County and with the City's building inspector.

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

The City Council received the minutes from a Planning Board meeting held February 12, 2019. The minutes are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that receipt of the minutes be acknowledged.

There were no recommendations from the Planning Board requiring City Council approval.

DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

The City Council received an ordinance ordering the Community Code Inspector to proceed with demolition of the following substandard properties on February 25, 2019:

- a. 708 Branch Street

- b. 728 Park Avenue
- c. 730 Park Avenue

Consideration as to 708 Branch Street was deferred until today's meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight, and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2019-12** entitled **ORDINANCE ORDERING THE COMMUNITY CODE INSPECTOR TO PROCEED TO DEMOLISH CERTAIN DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES PURSUANT TO THE HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/FY 2018-2019 FOR BEECH BRANCH OUTFALL DESIGN CARRYFORWARD

The City Council received an ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget to carryforward appropriations (\$404,000) in the Sewer Fund from FY 2017-2018 for design of improvements for the Beech Branch Outfall.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Bullock and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2019-13** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FOR BEECH BRANCH OUTFALL DESIGN CARRYFORWARD** be adopted.

PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/FY 2018-2019 CDBG PROJECT

The City Council received an ordinance amendment to the project ordinance for the FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, appropriating \$125,000 relative to the distribution of Housing Repair Grants. Council was advised that this grant encompasses \$225,000 in total funding for FY 2019 and is one of three grants for housing repair and improvement offered by the City through the Department of Community & Business Development.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Bullock and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2019-14** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/2018-2019 CDBG PROJECT** be adopted.

TAXICAB LICENSE/ADDITIONAL APPLICATION

The City Council received a recommendation from Interim Chief of Police George Robinson for the issuance of one (1) new taxi right license to:

- Denise Hunter

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that taxi permit be approved for issuance to Denise Hunter, as recommended by the Interim Chief of Police.

2019 NEW GENERAL SCHEDULE FOR MUNICIPAL RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSITION

City Clerk Pamela O. Casey advised the City Council that retention and disposition of municipal records is regulated by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History. She explained that the Division has recently published a new schedule for records retention that affects the retention of the following categories ONLY:

- Administration and Management Records
- Budget, Fiscal and Payroll Records
- Geographic Information Systems Records
- Information Technology Records
- Legal Records
- Personnel Records
- Public Management Records
- Risk Management Records
- Workforce Development Records

She further explained that municipalities will continue following the 2012 schedule and amendments for all program records. She added that each time a new schedule or amendment is published it must be approved by each municipality. The Council was provided with the current amendment published on March 1, 2019.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule amendment described above be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the approval document on behalf of the City.

2019 INSTALLMENT FINANCING PROPOSAL

The City Council was provided with a resolution required in connection with the filing of an application with the Local Government Commission for approval of an installment financing application for Fiscal Year 2019 for financing for Senior Center roof repairs, Judicial Center roof repairs, Fire Station improvements and a gas main project estimated at approximately \$2,818,000.

Council was advised that the resolution is a finding of necessary fact supporting the business reasons for financing and authorizes the City to proceed with filing the application.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2019-7** entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT AUTHORIZED BY NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 160A-20** be adopted. This resolution authorizes the Mayor, City Manager and Director of Finance to execute documents required in connection with the financing.

MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/CSX MAINLINE UTILITIES RELOCATION (REIMBURSEMENT) SUPPLEMENTAL MUNICIPAL RAIL CROSSING AGREEMENT (NCDOT AHD CSX)

The City Council was provided with a Municipal Agreement (TIP: P-5711/WBS: 44908.2.4) for adjustment and relocation of City of Rocky Mount municipally-owned water and sewer infrastructure necessary under NCDOT TIP P-5711. Council was advised that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has agreed to reimburse the City for 100% of the actual construction cost of the CSX Mainline Utilities Relocation estimated at \$900,000 (includes a 10% contingency).

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the Municipal

Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (TIP: P-5711/WBS: 44908.2.4.)(**C-2019-8**) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City.

BIDS/CSX MAINLINE UTILITY RELOCATION (WATER & SEWER)

The City Council received the tabulation of bids for the CSX Mainline Utility Relocation (water & sewer). Bids were received and opened on February 19, 2019 after all necessary legal procedures had been implemented and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2019-4**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Ed Braswell and Sons, Incorporated at their total cost of \$871,005, plus a 6% contingency of \$52,260.30 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City. The Council was advised that project expenses up to \$1M will be reimbursed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/CSX WATER AND SEWER REALIGNMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The City Council received an ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget to appropriate an additional \$489,331 in the Water Fund and an additional \$433,935 in the Sewer Fund for realignment and improvements to City water and sewer lines located along the CSX railway. Council was advised that no City funds are currently scheduled to be used for this project.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2019-15** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FOR CSX WATER AND SEWER REALIGNMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS** be adopted.

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES CONTRACT AWARD/TAR RIVER TRANSIT TRANSFER STATION RENOVATIONS

The City Council was provided with a proposal from Oakley Collier Architects for architectural services for design and construction administration of Tar River Transit (TRT) Transfer Station Renovations. Council was advised the renovations will provide driver support facilities for both the fixed and rural route drivers in the north end of the TRT Transfer Station at a total cost of \$42,765.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the contract with Oakley Collier Architects (**C-2019-9**) be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES CONTRACT AWARD/CITY HALL RENOVATIONS

The City Council was provided with a proposal from Oakley Collier Architects for architectural services for the following City Hall Renovations as a part of the One-Stop-Shop at a cost of \$110,725:
Phase 1: space assessment/conceptual design for the first and second

floor of City Hall to include a high-level review of access management and security; and

Phase II: construction documents, bidding services and contract administration for proposed renovations to the 5,000 square foot former business services office.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the contract with Oakley Collier Architects (**C-2019-10**) be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

BIDS/ONE (1) 12-YARD TRUCK MOUNTED COMBINATION SEWER CLEANER

The City Council received a recommendation for the purchase of one (1) 12-yard truck mounted combination sewer cleaner through Sourcewell, formerly 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). Sourcewell advertised as required by law and bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2019-5**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Jet-Vac Equipment Company, LLC based on Sourcewell Contract #122017-SCA at a cost of \$379,507.80 and that City staff be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

BID/TWELVE (12) 2019 FORD POLICE SEDANS AWD (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase twelve (12) Ford Police Sedans AWD through the North Carolina State Term Contract. Council was advised that Statewide term contracts are managed by the Department of Administration, Purchase and Contract Division, to provide quality products and services at the best available price.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the purchase of twelve (12) Ford Police Sedans AWD pursuant to State Term Contract #070A at a per vehicle cost of \$23,985 (total cost of \$287,820) from Capital Ford, Incorporated of Raleigh be approved and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award. Bid documentation for this purchase will be filed with the bid documentation in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2019-6**.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney invited the City's new Parks and Recreation Director Elton Daniels to the podium. She announced Daniels was appointed last month and has extensive experience in Parks and Recreation and other general areas. Mr. Daniels was invited to make comments.

He said it is an honor and privilege to serve the City of Rocky Mount and that he looks forward to working with the City Council, staff, management and the community as a whole.

APPOINTMENT/POLICE CHIEF (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Manager announced that she has appointed the new Police Chief. She announced that Chief George Robinson is a 27-year veteran of the Rocky Mount Police Department and graduated from Shaw University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice. She added that he is also a graduate of the Administrative Officers Management Program at North Carolina State University and the Senior Management Institute for Police at Boston University. Ms. Small-Toney stated Chief Robinson brings extensive knowledge of the community, has great rapport with the rank and file in the Police Department and has distinguished himself in the community as a leader. She said it is her pleasure and honor to appoint Daniels Chief of Police and asked him to come forward.

The Mayor invited Chief Robinson to make comments.

Chief Robinson made the following comments:

"First of all, I would like to give thanks to God for this once in a lifetime opportunity that I have dreamed of for many years. Thanks to my family and my wife, Lisa, who has been there with me during the last 28 years supporting me through many sleepless nights when I would be called out. We missed a lot of family time and Christmases together.

To the community, the Mayor, Council and City Manager, I will serve this community honorably and make sure everyone's constitutional rights are upheld. I come from a long history of law enforcement. My father served 30 years. I have a brother and sister with the Fayetteville Police Department and together they have over 35 years' experience. I have a brother with the State Highway Patrol who serves on the Governors Detail and he made it here tonight.

To my Command Staff, Captain Michael Paul, Captain Marty Clay, Captain Mike Whitley and Interim Commander Dan Moseley, for the last two months they have strongly supported me.

To the men and women at the Rocky Mount Police Department, I know that you really care. I see it every day. Continue to do so not only because you are honorable men and women but because you really care about this community. Also, to the men and women of the Rocky Mount Police Department there is a lot of hard work and sleepless nights. There will be many times missed from family, but I know that you have what it takes to be a success.

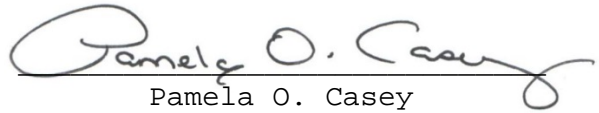
To the community, now is the time to build those partnerships that we have created in the past and to create new partnerships. Now is not the time to look back. Let's learn from our mistakes and move forward toward improving the quality of life in this community. Let's plan tonight, March 11, 2019, to be the time that we decide to do that. Only then will we be successful and make this community a safe place."

CLOSED SESSION (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The Mayor requested a Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 8:16 p.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as **ESM-522** at the end of **Minute Book 35** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

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



Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk