

April 22, 2019

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in regular session at 4:00 p.m. in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building with Mayor David W. Combs presiding.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and called on Mayor Pro Tem Tom Rogers to offer prayer.

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 and Natasha Hampton, Assistant City Managers; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer; Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager; Will Deaton, Director of Department of Development Services; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Rich Worsinger, Director of Energy Resources; Amy Staton, Finance Director; Nicki Gurganus, Accounting Manager; JoSeth Bocook, Planning Administrator; David Wise, Business Downtown Development Coordinator; Brad Kerr, Director of Public Works; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; William Hale; Deputy Fire Marshal; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Also in attendance were the following **Energy Resources Employees**: Amy Blanton, Darryl Strother, Bradley Walters, Garland Clark, Andy Hicks, Artie Anderson, Bryan Knox, Chris Winders, Dennis Evans, Garrett Manning, Jason Friedrich, Joe Bell, Joey Cascell, Michael Winkler, Nick Peaden, Phillip Wells, Ronald Lee, Ryan Thompson, Tim Phelps, Zach Clayton, Alex Parker, Benji Turner, Brandon Jones, Brett Young, Casey Temple, Cody Melvin, Cody Ricks, Daniel Hicks, Danny Cobb, Doug Tant, Dylan Sauls, Greg Lamm, Jeff Judkins, Jerry Hawkins, John Flowers, John Locke, Lakesha Arrington, Lexton Martin, Marshall Langley, Nick Delbridge, Randy Coggin, Ronnie Joyner, Ryan Black, Sammy Moss, Spencer Leonard, Steve LeGay, Steve McBride, Tim Coley, Trevor Evans, Trey Wiggins, Will Barnes and William Brown.

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

WELCOME

Mayor Combs welcomed citizens and directed them to copies of the agenda near the entrance of the City Council Chamber. He noted that Councilmember Joyner is on his way from Raleigh.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held April 8, 2019 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

2018 NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC POWER AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE AND EXCELLENCE IN RELIABILITY AND AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION (APPA) MUTUAL AID COMMENDATION

The Mayor introduced Roy Jones, Chief Executive Officer of Electricities of North Carolina, Inc. for presentation of the 2018 North Carolina Public Power Awards of Excellence and American Public Power Association Mutual Aid Commendation to the Department of Energy Resources.

Mr. Jones recognized the communication efforts by Rocky Mount Energy Resources staff by saying that Rocky Mount is one of over 2,200 communities across the United States that owns and operates its own electric distribution system and each year innovations in the community are reviewed in the public power communities in North Carolina, including outstanding customer service and service efficiency;

Mr. Jones announced that the North Carolina Public Power Awards of Excellence honor public power communities across the state for outstanding performance and Rocky Mount is being recognized in four key areas as follows:

NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC POWER AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE AND EXCELLENCE IN RELIABILITY:

Value of Public Power: recognizes utilities for their communication efforts relative to storms, outages and the benefits of being a public power community; he said last year was a rough hurricane season with the addition of winter storms; he recognized the department for communication efforts to customers in advance of the storm, during the storm and after the storm and stated Rocky Mount is a model that will be taken to other public power communities for how to communicate with customers;

Continuous Improvement: recognizes utilities for successfully implementing processes that increase efficiency; he said technology changes fast and changes how work is done; he said communities must stay abreast of technology and change processes and procedure to take advantage of technology and Rocky Mount has taken advantage of LED lighting (changing out about 15,000 lights; almost 99% complete) to provide brighter lighting and power savings; he added the City advantage of fiber optics and changing out of the SCADA system along with changing out electromechanical relays with digital solid state relays; he said the City has adopted an energy policy to allow customers to put residential rooftop solar panels on their homes to have a cleaner portfolios;

Workforce Development: recognizes utilities for their safety practices and efforts to train/retrain employees; he said the City has worked towards succession planning and is partnering with Nash Community College for training local linemen; he said linemen from all over North Carolina benefit by coming to Nash Community College for training; and added that one of the most important goals is safety; and

Wholesale Power Cost: recognizes utilities for their energy reduction efforts and load management program; he stated the benefits and cost reduction created by the Eastern Agency asset sale have been enjoyed by all; he added that almost 8,800 customers, both residential and commercial, are taking advantage of the City's load management program which saves them on their power bills; he added that the Energy Share Program allows families to help families by helping their homes become more energy efficient.

He congratulated City staff on receiving these prestigious awards.

The Mayor thanked Energy Resources employees in attendance for their excellent service and joined Mr. Jones, Rich Worsinger, Amy Blanton, Michael Winkler, Darryl Strother, Rochelle Small-Toney and Councilmember Knight for a photograph.

AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION (APPA) MUTUAL AID COMMENDATION:

Mr. Jones recognized the City of Rocky Mount Energy Resources Department for providing assistance to neighboring public power communities during the storm events last year, including public power communities both in North Carolina and Virginia. He stated the City is being recognized nationally by the American Public Power Association for its efforts to help restore power to communities quickly. He says Rocky Mount has stepped up to the plate time and time again to assist other communities with resources.

He said the City assisted four different public power communities last year. He presented commendations to crew leaders for work provided by city employees to assist the following communities:

- Casey Temple - Laurinburg, NC
- Benji Turner - New Bern, NC
- Steve McBride - Martinsville, VA
- Jerry Hawkins - Danville, VA

He stated that crews assisted last year in preparations to host the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo by putting up about 150 poles. He thanked the crews for working in the mud to prepare for that event.

The Mayor and City Manager joined Mr. Jones, Mr. Worsinger and the crew leaders for a photograph.

Energy Resources Director Rich Worsinger recognized his entire crew for their outstanding work and asked them to stand to be recognized.

Mayor Combs thanked the Department of Energy Resources for their efforts and noted Rocky Mount has required assistance in the past and appreciated the fact that the City was able to assist others last year.

POLICE WEEK/PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the week of May 12 through 18, 2019 as Police Week and May 15, 2019 as Peace Officers Memorial Day. Mayor Combs presented the Proclamation to Retired Police Sergeant L. S. Parker, Jr. and he and City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney joined Sergeant Parker for a photograph.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

The Mayor presented a Proclamation proclaiming the week of April 22 through 26, 2019 as Community Development Week in the City of Rocky Mount to Assistant City Manager Natasha Hampton. Mayor Combs and City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney joined Ms. Hampton for a photograph.

PRESERVATION MONTH

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of May 2019 as Preservation Month in the City of Rocky Mount. He presented the proclamation to Will Deaton, Director of Department of Development Services, and JoSeth Bocook, Planning Administrator, and joined them along with City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney for a photograph.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Combs outlined the guidelines for public petitions and opened the meeting for petitions. He recognized the following individuals and a summary of comments are as follows:

- ***Louis Nettles:***
 - Said he came to a Council meeting in November and spoke with Council about an issue he had at the Event Center when he put together a reunion for all nine area high schools; said the event turned out well and had good participation but there were multiple issues;
 - Said the Mayor directed the Manager and Assistant Manager to assist him to come to a resolution and now, five months later, nothing has been done to rectify the situation;
 - Said there were many contract defaults; the power went out three times and he has a live video in real time as irrefutable proof which he has supplied that to the City; said there was no electrician on duty nor was there any electrician on call, however he had three trained bonded electricians onsite willing to fix the problem, but they were not allowed to do so because of the catering manager;
 - Said his guests were asked to leave at 11:48 p.m. although he had paid for the event until 1 a.m.;
 - Said he was told by General Manager John McDonald in the presence of Assistant City Manager Hampton that the young lady at the Event Center was no longer involved in the event and that the Assistant Manager of the Event Center would take over the event and he was okay with that, but on the night of the event the previous manager (young lady) came in and attempted to run his event into the ground;
 - Said when he arrived kitchen staff told him he had food available for 850 people and he agreed to doubling the price per person to avoid issues; he said the food served was inadequate; said he rented a building that was supposed to hold 3,000 people and only 90 tables were available and only 60 tablecloths;

Councilmember Blackwell requested an update and Mayor Combs called on staff to provide information to Council relative to this matter.

Assistant City Manager Natasha Hampton provided an update to the City Council concluding by stating attempts have been made to resolve this matter with Mr. Nettles and reimburse him 100%; however, he has not provided receipts in the amount of the claim he has requested (\$24,166) despite numerous attempts to contact him.

Councilmember Blackwell requested that staff meet with Mr. Nettles following the City Council meeting.

Councilmember Miller questioned who is responsible for the reimbursement of cost.

The City Manager stated this would be the responsibility of SFM since the City contracts with SMF to manage the Event Center, but in good faith, it was the intent of staff to come back to Council for authorization to settle the matter. She added that if Mr. Nettles is available after today's meeting staff will sit down with him to review any receipts he has.

Councilmember Knight stated he is a classmate of Mr. Nettles and attended the event and witnessed the difficulties encountered. He encouraged City staff to be sure that Mr. Nettles is fully reimbursed. He said the matter has lingered and encouraged staff and SFM to move to resolve the matter. He said it happened over 6 months ago and needs to be corrected immediately and apologized to Mr. Nettles for his inconvenience and for how he has been treated.

Councilmember Knight apologized for the past event (Grown & Sexy) which was canceled on short notice due to citizens having a problem with the name. He said he has a bitter taste in his mouth that a few citizens were allowed to dictate what will take place at the Event Center. He said there should be policies and if people follow the policies and procedures and pay for rental they should be treated fairly and justly. He said there needs to be a strong conversation with those managing the Event Center and if they cannot manage it they need to be dismissed.

- **Samuel Battle:**
 - Said he has three issues:
 - Guys from both sides of the gang have been calling and Chief Robinson has not been returning calls, so they are planning to call Chief Stone now; however, this is a Rocky Mount issue;
 - Neighborhood presidents are not active in the community and do not get out into the community and talk to young people or relay information from the community to Council; he asked when elections for neighborhood presidents will happen and said he has been talking with Human Relations Director Archie Jones;
 - Said he spoke to community leaders in Ward 1 and is ashamed of some of the historic properties where Martin Luther King stayed when he visited Rocky Mount; he said efforts are being made to restore and take care of Buck Leonard and Thelonious Monk properties and the historic property in Ward 1 where MLK stayed needs a roof
- **Frances Constans:**
 - Requested the City Council reconsider their decision relative to the Tarboro Street housing; she said a man or woman's word should be their bond and she does not think Council has lived up to their bond;
 - Said there is nowhere for children to play on the Tarboro property due to environmental concerns related to ground seepage due to the former dry cleaner's being located on the property;
 - Requested the decision to use this location be rescinded and that the property be used for parking
- **A. B. Whitley:**
 - Requested an update relative to the investigation

Mayor Combs stated that the last time a request was made for an update relative to the investigation was when the Manager's mother had passed away and then her father passed away a week or so later and she has been out of the office. He said the investigation is complete and Council will be receiving a preliminary report and following review by the attorney an update will be provided to the public.

- **Anna Lamb:**
 - Said since today is Earth Day, what steps has Council taken on the issues of climate change and environmental justice;
 - Applauded Council's endorsement of the climate protection agreement at the Conference of Mayor's but noted that was almost 12 years ago in 2007;
 - Thanked the City Council for stepping up to make houses and businesses more energy efficient but said it is not enough to protect citizens and time is running out to prevent the irreversible damage and impacts of climate change;
 - Petitioned the Council to come out against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline being built in Nash County and other counties in eastern North Carolina and commit to investing in renewable energy that will make us less dependable on non-renewables such as natural gas; said the project is 2 years behind schedule and more than \$2,000,000 over budget; said local farmers are having their farms taken away and not for public good but for corporate profit; said there is no long-term economic gain for Rocky Mount and utility customers will see their bills rise because they are the ones footing the bill for this unnecessary pipeline so that Duke Energy and Dominion can profit; said it is no coincidence that the proposed pipeline route runs through counties where poverty level is far higher than average and where African American communities constitute 30% to 50% of the population; said the pipeline is more likely to gentrify towns than to benefit local residents; said natural gas is not clean and the gas in the Atlantic Coast pipeline would be mostly methane which is 87 times more harmful to the climate than carbon dioxide over its first 20 years in the atmosphere and contributes to rising sea levels and stronger natural disaster; said all pipelines leak and the leaks are a danger to the air quality and water supply and said the pipeline is a danger to lives pointing to the recent pipeline explosion in Durham; said last May the Telegram published an editorial opposing the Atlantic Coast Pipeline; she encouraged the Council to publicly speak out in opposition to the pipeline

- **Dr. Kim Koo:**
 - Said prioritizing the needs of citizens should be the guiding principle of the City Council and stated that the question of affordable housing has been on the agenda for many communities on the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount for some time; said these communities have deteriorated from flight of more wealthy residents, disinvestments over many years and increasing unemployment and some with two jobs cannot afford adequate housing;
 - Said over the years many organizations have put affordable housing on top of their lists and have encouraged the City to build affordable housing with whatever federal funding trickled down;
 - Said she is confused about the adieu being made about building workforce housing vs. parking and said this is a no brainer even if the original idea was to build a parking lot; she said if the opportunity arose for building something that is a greater benefit why it is wrong to change one's mind when planning the future and questioned if Councilmembers are being held to a different standard;
 - Reiterated her support for building workforce housing to relieve the housing crisis in the City and urged all to support the plan;
 - Said tier parking can be a solution to parking woes;
 - Said underground and one- or two-story parking can vastly expand the loss and could be a possible solution;
 - Urged Council to investigate environmental concerns prior to building workforce housing at Tarboro Street

- **Bronson Williams:**
 - Stated one issue already addressed by Council is cultural sensitivity as it relates to the Grown & Sexy party recently scheduled at the Event Center; he added from what he saw on social media there is a need to address cultural sensitivity and opportunities exist to have true dialogue to understand cultural differences;
 - Asked that the City review the franchise agreement relative to WHIG TV; said the City's cable franchise agreement contains a paragraph stating that WHIG TV is on the air because it provides public access to the studio to the community; he said it is his understanding that people are unable to use that facility and there are remedies

which he suggested that the city attorney review as to what may be done to rectify public access to that space if it is not allowed; said there are people who want to express themselves and there should not be censorship of content which he has heard is going on; added the remedies are very clear cut and clean; said he was unable to obtain access to the station back in 2014 and hopes the City Council will review the franchise agreement and get back with him in 10 days or so on this issue and how it may be addressed; noted that one remedy is that if a broadcaster is willing to take over the responsibilities they can do that and said he and his television station are inclined to do so;

- Said it is his opinion that the recent newspaper articles are because Council and staff are not transparent with the community; said the City should get out in front of issues and tell it like it is because the truth never changes. He said it is important that people know what is going on in the community;
- Added that there was a comment about the Event Center not paying utilities so no matter how truthful you are sometimes people make up their own minds and say certain things that simply are not true, but the City can do a better job on transparency

Councilmember Knight asked the City Attorney if he is prepared to review the Franchise Agreement and the City Attorney responded in the affirmative. Mr. Knight questioned who owns the Gateway Technology Center. City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney stated she thinks they lease space from North Carolina Wesleyan College, but can find out.

- ***Charles Chambliss, Jr.:***

- Said the term Grown & Sexy has been in use for the past 20 or more years in the entertainment area up and down the east coast and said if someone does not know what something means they should not make derogatory comments until they learn what it is and contributed the comments to the lack of diversity sensitivity; he said the Event Center is here and should be successful and should be marketed for events other than sports events;
- Said relative to housing it is unfortunate that the City is so far behind in dealing with affordable housing and hopes that can be resolved;
- Said he is still trying to find out why the Edgemont neighborhood cannot receive attention regarding trees in the right-of-way and requested that matter be addressed; he said no one has contacted him in a year and it was presented in writing by community presidents

Mayor Combs requested that Assistant City Managers Beschler or Hampton assist Mr. Chambliss and Councilmember Blackwell requested Mr. Chambliss be contacted within a week.

Mayor Combs stated that people were asking him what the Grown & Sexy event was and that is why he questioned it. He said he did not book or cancel the event.

- ***Stacey Graham:***

- Congratulated the Council on forming the Animal Care & Control Advisory Board but stated it is currently a false promise in that only 3 of 9 positions are filled;
- Stated the City and the Police Department has posted the vacant Animal Control position; days of service are Monday through Friday and this is a missed opportunity for the City to better serve the community and making a simple change to Tuesday through Saturday would provide 20% more service hours with regard to animal control and not cost the City any additional money; she questioned when the City will moved forward and look to the future and make progress on best practices concerning animals

- ***Troy Davis:***

- Said he rode down South Harris Street and spoke with Assistant City Manager Beschler today, having sent an email to Mr. Beschler, the City Manager and Cameron Privott recently regarding trash on the side of Harris Street;

- Said it is too common that we let our city rot and let trash sit on the side of the street;
 - Said he grew up in Philadelphia and the streets were filthy, but they are now clean and Rocky Mount has taken on the filth;
 - Said it is a two-way street and citizens and city staff need to pick up trash;
 - Said his friend received a bill for trash on the side of the street on Harris Street and he is not paying it; said the City Council needs to do something about it; said if the City is going to double dip that is not acceptable;
 - Said certain City Councilmembers have been bashed for purchasing property but Robbie Davis has purchased a 120-acre tract and it was said they were following “almost” normal bidding procedures;
 - Said if the current management cannot manage the Event Center perhaps management needs to be switched out
- ***Lige Daughtridge:***
 - Said he wanted to know the reason Council has turned its back on the original promises to the public investors, Event Center and Edgecombe Community College to develop Tarboro Street parking and to the constituents of Ward One to develop Crossing at 64;
 - Said relative to economic development for the City and Ward 1 the project attended by the Governor is ideal for sparking development at the Crossing at 64 property that was planned for development over 20 years ago;
 - Said in 2012 it was reported \$2.9M was paid in taxes by federal, state and local government and Golden Leaf funds and said to his knowledge the only development there is Bojangles and questioned why;
 - Said between Corning and Triangle Tire there are 3,500 jobs to be had in the next 18-24 months and Crossing at 64 is in a prime position to benefit from the growth not only for Ward 1 but for the entire city and questioned why the City is not doing everything it can to develop that area - a hotel with direct access to both the Event Center and Sports Complex or a grocery store or retail stores;
 - Questioned why the City imposed the use of affordable housing tax credits which imposes unnecessary restrictions for the Governor’s housing project and requested that stipulation be removed allowing the development to happen at the Crossing at 64 to spur economic development in the area;
 - Said land is available at the Crossing at 64 owned by RMECDC;
 - Said based on the Minnesota housing report in the paper Rocky Mount needs to quit propping up the RMECDC and this is an opportunity for the RMECDC to make money from the sale of the land generated by a grocery store development and sales of land for all 80 units of workforce housing and ultimately this would take RMECDC off the rolls of the Rocky Mount taxpayers;
 - Requested this property be tax producing as promised when federal, state and local tax payer dollars were given to the project;
 - Said in an article dated May 27, 2012 (nearly 7 years ago) officials sitting in this room said they were elated by the progress at the Crossing and again asked the Council why they have not kept their promises to the citizens of Rocky Mount to better their future at the Crossing at 64

Councilmember Knight made comments and was interrupted by comments from the audience. He requested that the Mayor control the audience.

Mayor Combs responded that citizens have a right to question the Council and that is what Mr. Daughtridge was doing.

Councilmember Knight continued, and the Mayor called for a point of order. Comments were made by Councilmember Knight and the Mayor.

Councilmember Knight said Crossing at 64 has been redlined for all these years and has been working with Alan Matthews to request that franchises come and locate there. He said Nehemiah Smith lives near there and they have gone from place to place begging private developers to come and Joyce Dickens has worked her fingers to the bone and cannot

get a grocery store. He said now someone is saying they can get a grocery store, but this Council has always been trying to strive to get economic development at Crossing at 64 and residents in Ward 1 have been asking for economic development. He said Ward 1 has one grocery store, one bank and managed to get a Rose's and a Pizza Hut at the Edgemont Shopping Center and said this Council has worked tirelessly to get economic development for the past 20 years and has been relined.

The audience called for time limits on comments.

A conversation was held between Councilmember Knight and the Mayor.

Comments were made by Councilmembers Knight and Blackwell with protest by the audience.

Councilmember Blackwell said he is unintimidated and unafraid and stated this is America and we all get to have opinions and that is a good thing. He said it is a right to come down to speak, but it is his right to respond. He said he has no problem with someone speaking but they are not speaking the truth. He stated Councilmember Knight speaks the truth and questioned why if a grocery store can be built on one side of town why it can't be built on the other side of town. He said quality of traffic and not enough rooftops with certain types of folks living in the rooftops (coded language) is what they have heard from developers. He said if citizens want to know why they succeed it is because all work together to lift up all. He said if someone suddenly has some influence to help develop properties in East Rocky Mount it is welcomed and appreciated, and he is sure all who own property will welcome the help and if this is what it took to receive assistance then "God Bless, Tarboro Street property." He added if a sustainable economy is to be built that means that everyone gets a shot at making money and there is nothing wrong with people who are low resourced desiring to get more resources and said he thought that is what was wanted. He said he thought self-sufficiency is what was desired and there would not have been a RMECDC if there had been thoughtful private developers in this City who said they would invest in every community and create affordable quality development for all. He added because that does not exist there needs to be a way to get it done and when the quality of housing that takes place in this City is looked at for people who are challenged in resources the City is a model. He said others would love to do what the City does and all need to understand how to lift up every component of the City and if we all get creative perhaps there will be something else to talk about other than what is not liked. He stated he has laid out his reasons for why he supports downtown development for everyone. He said read the reasons if you want to know how he feels, and you won't have to hear him preach, but don't ask him to do what he has already done.

**INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT FOR FY 2019 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS/
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to filing an application to the Local Government Commission for approval of an installment purchase contract for construction of improvements.

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

The City Council was provided with copies of the tabulation of proposals received on April 1, 2019 for financing a total of \$3,100,000 for the following construction projects:

Roof Repairs for Senior Center	\$443,000
Roof Repairs for Judicial Center	\$390,000
Gas Main Project	\$1,240,000
Fire Station Improvements	\$1,027,000
TOTAL	<u>\$3,100,000</u>

The Council was advised that the most favorable rate was received from PNC Bank, National Association which proposes to finance the construction improvements for the Roof Repairs at the Senior Center and Judicial Center (\$833,000) at the fixed interest rate of 2.36% for 59 months; Gas Main Projects (\$1,240,000) at the fixed interest rate of 2.96% for 59 months and Fire Station Improvements (\$1,027,000) at the fixed interest rate of 2.60% for 84 months.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the proposal of PNC Bank, National Association be accepted and that **Resolution No. R-2019-18** entitled **RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO ENTER INTO AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,100,000 IN ORDER TO FINANCE ROOF REPAIRS FOR THE SENIOR CENTER AND THE JUDICIAL CENTER, FIRE STATION IMPROVEMENTS, AND THE GAS MAIN PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF RELATED INSTRUMENTS, AND DETERMINING OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH** be adopted.

This resolution authorizes the City Manager and the Director of Finance and any other officer of Lessee who shall have power to execute contracts on behalf of Lessee, and each of them, to execute the Agreement required in connection with the financing; and authorizes the City Clerk of Lessee, and any other officer of Lessee who shall have power to do so, to affix the official seal of Lessee to said Agreement and to attest the same.

FY 2019 INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT FOR EQUIPMENT

The City Council received copies of the tabulation of proposals received on April 1, 2019 for financing a total of \$2,842,000 for the following equipment:

- **36-month term**
- Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device \$137,000
- Non-Overcenter Aerial Device \$233,000
- 50' Fully Hydraulic Derrick \$258,000

• Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device	\$214,000
• Trenchers (2)	\$133,000
• Sewer Vacuum Truck	\$382,000
• Tracked Skid Steer	\$ 82,000
• Dump Trucks (2)	\$201,000
- 59-month term	
• Fire Pumper	\$557,000
• High Duty Pump Replacement	\$645,000
	\$2,842,000

The Council was advised that the most favorable rate was received from Banc of America Public Capital Corporation which proposes to finance purchase of the equipment at the fixed interest rate of 2.4523% for the 36-month term and 2.4131% for the 59-month term.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Bullock and unanimously carried that the proposal of Banc of America Public Capital Corporation be accepted and that **Resolution No. R-2019-19** entitled **RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM BANC OF AMERICA PUBLIC CAPITAL CORPORATION TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT** be adopted.

This resolution authorizes the Finance Director and the City Manager, to execute and deliver an installment financing agreement consistent with the Banc of America Public Capital Corporation proposal, to execute certificates and documents, and to take all such further action as may be considered necessary or desirable to carry out the financing of the equipment as contemplated by the Banc of America Public Capital Corporation and this resolution.

UPDATE/ROCKY MOUNT WILSON AIRPORT

The Mayor called on Board Member Garry Hodges. Mr. Hodges stated the City is very fortunate to have someone with Mr. Dion Viventi's capabilities in the community and recognized Board Member, Dan Herring, also in attendance. He introduced Mr. Viventi.

The City Council received an update relative to the Rocky Mount-Wilson Airport from Airport Manager, Dion Viventi, and Board Member, Garry Hodges.

Mr. Viventi provided a PowerPoint presentation to Council outlining the following highlights:

- The airport was built circa 1969;
- Airport identifier is: KRWI
- Airport Authority is composed of 7 appointed members from Wilson, Nash and Edgecombe Counties; and from the Cities of Wilson and Rocky Mount
- Employs: 3 full-time and 2 part-time employees;
- Operational statistics:
 - Aircraft based on field - 25
 - Single-engine planes - 16
 - Multi-engine airplanes - 3
 - Jet airplanes - 3
 - Helicopters - 3
- Aircraft operations: average 82/day

- 65% transient general aviation
- 29% local general aviation
- 4% air taxi
- 2% military
- 504 acres - Part 139 certificated facility
- Runway 4-22 - 7100' x 150' rated: 75/140 # DW/DT
- Full parallel taxiway
- Certified precision approaches both ends
- Recent corporate and business customers include:
 - FED-Ex
 - Old Dominion
 - UPS
 - IFL Group
 - Kalletta Charters
- Scheduled Charter flight customers:
 - Ron Zoby Tours
 - Hartsfield Aviation
- Annual Economic impact of NC airports:
 - \$52B
 - 307,000 jobs
 - \$12.6B personal income
 - \$2.2 state and local tax revenue
- Annual Economic impact of Rocky Mount-Wilson Regional Airport:
 - \$69.7M
 - 450 jobs
 - \$25.9M personal income
 - \$2.9M state and local tax revenue
- A listing of the types of businesses that are supported by the airport
- Operating budget/audit FY 2018
- Transition Plan 2017-2019
- A listing of current and future projects (including expansion)
- Future logistics connectivity
- Fuel farm projects
- Pavement Rehabilitation Project (including photos of project):
 - Phase 1 - currently under construction
 - Runway closed until July 14
 - Anticipated project completion - October 4, 2019
 - Costs breakdown of construction project - \$14,802,070.00:
 - Federal Aviation Administration - \$9,942,776.00
 - NCDOT - \$3,379,083.00
 - Local Match - \$1,480,207.00
 - ❖ Rocky Mount - \$422,916.29
 - ❖ Wilson - \$422,916.29
 - ❖ Edgecombe County - \$211,458.14
 - ❖ Nash County - \$211,458.14
 - ❖ Wilson County - \$211,458.14

Mr. Viventi responded to questions from Councilmembers.

**PowerPoint presentation on file in the City Clerk's office*

Councilmember Joyner arrived*

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

The City Council received the minutes from a regular scheduled Committee of the Whole Meeting held Monday, April 8, 2019 as follows:

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE FREDERICK E. TURNAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Rogers, Mayor Pro Tem

STAFF PRESENT:

Natasha Hampton

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

Pamela O. Casey
 Chris Beschler
 Tameka Kenan-Norman
 Landis Faulcon
 Brad Kerr
 Kim Batts
 Richard J. Rose

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dave Pritchett, SFM
 Art Thomason, Rocky Mount Event Center General Manager

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all present. He explained the guidelines for Committee of the Whole work sessions and noted while public input in work sessions is not a part of the agenda there is always time available for public petitions at the regular Council meeting.

He recognized City Clerk Pamela O. Casey to lead discussion relative to ongoing Boards, Commissions and Committee appointments.

1. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES/CONTINUED APPOINTMENTS - Pam Casey

The City Clerk provided the Council with a form outlining each of the Boards and Commissions and identifying the meeting date for each.

The City Clerk provided the Council with appointments made at the 2018 City Council retreat and reviewed with the Council the applications for appointments to Boards, Commission and Committees. The Council made the following appointments:

Board of Adjustment (three-year term expires June 30, 2021):

-Reappointed

- o Carl R. Revis - Ward 3

- **Business Development Authority** (three-year term expires June 30, 2021):

-Appointed

- o Lea Henry

- **Central City Revitalization Panel** (three-year terms expire June 30, 2021)

-Appointed

- o Member At-Large - Charles Roberson (*pursuant to amendment to add 6th at-large member*)

-Reappointed

- o Central City Property Owner - Garland Jones
- o Member At-Large - Jean Almand Kitchin
- o Member At-Large - David Joyner

- **Community Appeals Board** (three-year term expires June 30, 2021)

-Reappointed

- o David Durgin (Ward 6)

- **Planning Board** (three-year term expires June 30, 2021):

-Reappointed

- o Johnnie Mayo, Jr. (Ward 3)

- **Utility Service Review Board** (four-year term expires June 30, 2022):

-Reappointed

- o Marletha Muhammad (Ward 4)

- **Workforce Housing Advisory Commission** (three-year terms after initial appointment):
 - Appointed
 - o Max Avent (Mayor; contingent upon receipt of personal history form; expires 2022)
 - o Gloria Davis (Ward 1; contingent upon receipt of personal history form; expires 2022)
 - o Susan Perry Cole (Ward 2; contingent upon receipt of personal history form; expires 2022)
 - o Lewis Bridgers (Ward 3; contingent upon receipt of personal history form; expires 2021)
 - o Kevin Macklin (Housing Authority; contingent upon receipt of personal history form; expires 2021)
 - o Thomas L. Walker (Faith-based; contingent upon receipt of personal history form; expires 2022)

EXTERNAL BOARDS - City Appointments

- STEP Board (one-year term expires June 30, 2019):
 - Reappointed
 - o Chris Miller

Mayor Combs encouraged all Councilmembers to make appointments to the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board and the Workforce Housing Advisory Commission as early as possible to get this Board and Commission up and running.

Mayor Pro Tem Rogers noted that the appointment of Curmilus Dancy as the NAACP appointee to the Human Relations Commission was not formally approved by the City Council and asked the City Clerk for comment. The City Clerk noted the Human Relations Commission is the only Board with external appointments and often these external appointments are not made during the time of the regular appoint process but received later. She said failing to obtain approval of the full board was an administrative error. She advised the City Council that Mr. Dancy's term expires 2021. Discussion was held. Councilmember Knight noted Mr. Dancy is not opposed to the NAACP appointing another member who meets the residency requirement, and, by consensus, Council agreed that Mr. Dancy will continue to serve as a member of the Human Relations Commission until the next meeting of the NAACP Board to allow continued NAACP representation on the Board until another appointee can be identified and appointed.

Councilmember Blackwell reminded Council that the Human Relations Commission was created because of the stress all communities in America were dealing with relative to race relations, civil rights and integration. He said all the Commissions do a good job but questioned the effectiveness on the community if the focus is only on having nice conversations and we are not changing the fabric and core of the community to embrace the difficult issues that still have root causes. He issued a challenge to the Human Relations Commission to take a look through the lens of equity and diversity in particular. Mayor Combs praised the Commission for its work relative to the community conversations.

The Mayor Pro Tem confirmed that the NAACP will work to identify a new appointee to the Human Relations Commission.

Mayor Combs suggested, and the City Council agreed, that a joint meeting of the City Council and Human Relations Commission be scheduled at some time in the near future.

Councilmember Knight questioned if Boards are allowed to enter into closed sessions. The City Attorney stated that while City Boards and Commissions are subject to the open meetings law it is unlikely they would have a legal matter requiring a closed session.

Councilmember Knight suggested Citizen's Academy presentations include information relative to Robert's Rules of Order and procedure for public meetings.

Mayor Combs reported that appointments have not yet been made to the Internal Audit Committee because the City's Internal Auditor is currently reporting to the Mayor on behalf of the City.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: By consensus, the City Council: 1) recommended appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees as outlined above; 2) recommended the appointment of a NAACP member with city residency; 3) recommended that a joint meeting of the City Council and Human Relations Commission be scheduled; and 4) recommended that Administrative Policy No. II. 20A Entitled "Policy: Central City Revitalization Panel" be amended to add an additional (6th) at-large member.

2. ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER/UPDATE - Natasha Hampton

Acting City Manager/Assistant City Manager Natasha Hampton advised the Council that there is a lot of activity at the Event Center. She called on Dave Pritchett, Facilities Manager and Chief Operating Officer of SFM to provide an update.

Mr. Pritchett introduced the new General Manager of the Event Center, Art Thomason. He told the City Council:

- There is still work to do, but there has been a lot of progress over the past month;
- From a financial standpoint the Event Center is \$5,000 ahead of budget (for five months in operation);
- The Event Center is booked for the remainder of the year;
- There are 66 banquet events booked for the calendar year (Edgecombe and Nash Rooms; 97 days);
- There are 32 sports entertainment events (volley ball; gymnastics; basketball, cheerleading) booked (73 days);
- There are 90 days of other events booked (combination of field house and banquet events); and
- There are 60 days of events booked outside of banquet events.

Councilmember Miller requested that the Councilmembers receive the information provided in his report via email.

In response to a question from the Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Pritchett advised that sports entertainment is on track in terms of the forecast and, in fact, is well ahead of the booking projection in the pro forma, including youth sports.

Mr. Pritchett responded to questions from Council relative to upcoming events. He noted the new general manager is skilled in booking both sporting and concert-type events.

He advised Chef Jerome Brown is now under contract for a 12-month agreement. He called on Art Thomason to introduce himself.

Mr. Thomason told the City Council he is originally from Roanoke, Virginia and has been in Columbus, Georgia for the past 30 years. He stated he has an extensive background in sports and entertainment and is former military. He added he has a background in radio and television and when he left radio he went into the venue management field, first as an event coordinator and most recently as an events services manager with a stint as an interim operations manager. He advised that he is well-versed on the operations side (conversion factor of putting down and taking up flooring to switch out events) as well as booking entertainment. He told the Council he has a sports background, is a former coach and has won two state championships as an assistant coach in football and girls' basketball in Georgia, of which he is very proud.

Mr. Thomason stated the Event Center is a beautiful facility and noted he previously managed a 10,000-seat facility. He said one of the enticing factors of his coming to Rocky Mount is that the Event Center is booked. He assured Council the building is being utilized.

He stated he has met with the managers at the Event Center and he will periodically report to Council relative to utilization. He said the family entertainment area served over 500 from Friday to Sunday.

Councilmember Watkins questioned what is planned for marketing future events stating she would like to see more regional promotion. Mr. Thomason responded that much of the marketing happens outside of the market at trade shows, area tournaments and competitions. He said he has met Tameka Kenan-Norman (Chief Communications and Marketing Director for the City) and wants to have the communications person for SFM collaborate more with the City. Councilmember Bullock agreed that the Event Center needs addition marketing and a marquee. The Mayor requested that Councilmembers be provided with the link to sign up to be notified of upcoming events.

Councilmember Bullock added that flags need to be placed outside the Event Center (American, North Carolina and City).

Discussion was held relative to the sound system and Mr. Thomason advised that when a concert is booked the promoter is directly responsible for every aspect of the concert. He stated the facility rents four walls, a ceiling and event staff. He clarified that the promoter is responsible for the sound and quality of the sound. He said he wants to educate the community on what the promoter of an event is responsible for and what the facility is responsible for. Councilmember Miller questioned if a checklist is provided to promoters to ensure they understand the responsibilities for the facility and the promoters. He stated he will work to educate promoters.

He responded to questions from the City Councilmembers.

Councilmember Joyner questioned if consideration has been given to holding a food show. Mr. Thomason stated that the sites of food shows are chosen by the food companies and noted he will need to make sure the kitchen is large enough to provide accommodations. He stated he intends to ensure that events booked can be adequately accommodated.

Councilmember Blackwell stated he gets a number of questions about wrestling events. Mr. Thomason said discussions are currently being held with respect to bringing some wrestling events to Rocky Mount.

Discussion was held relative to currently booked events.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Watkins and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 6:09 p.m. for matters concerning attorney-client privilege and economic development. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as **ESM-524** at the end of **Minute Book 35** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

NOTE: CITY HALL EXPERIENCED A POWER OUTAGE DURING A STORM AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING

4. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/REGULAR SESSION/RECESSED

The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee of the Whole in regular session at 6:49 p.m. and recessed the meeting to reconvene following the regular scheduled 7:00 p.m. City Council meeting.

5. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE/RECONVENE

The Mayor Pro Tem reconvened the Committee of the Whole in regular session at 8:00 p.m. with the following present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Natasha Hampton
 Pamela O. Casey
 Chris Beschler
 Tameka Kenan-Norman
 Brad Kerr
 Kim Batts
 Richard J. Rose

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the City Council return to Closed Session at 8:00 p.m.

6. REGULAR SESSION. The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee of the Whole in regular session at 8:27 p.m.

7. COMMENTS. The Mayor reported that the Internal Auditor has requested that software be purchased for her Department and it will be included in the upcoming budget. He stated she has hired one staff member and they are in the process of completing an audit of the Event Center. He reported that it is hoped the software purchase will prevent the need of additional personnel at this time. Discussion was held, and Council was advised the software is compatible with the existing Munis software.

8. ADJOURN. There being no further business for the Committee of the Whole, motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the City Council meeting adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the minutes and recommendations from the April 8, 2019 regular scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting be approved including approval of appointments/reappointments and that **Resolution No. R-2019-20** entitled **RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NO. II.20A ENTITLED "POLICY: CENTRAL CITY REVITALIZATION PANEL"** be adopted.

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>
<u>EDGEcombe COUNTY</u>				
2015	24409	CASAS, MARIA ELENA RUIZ LT 76 DEER RUN S/D ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	38.36 3.84	CITY PEN
		TOTAL RELEASE:	42.20	
2016	24408	CASAS, MARIA ELENA RUIZ LT 76 DEER RUN S/D ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	35.82 3.58	CITY PEN
		TOTAL RELEASE:	39.40	

2017	24356	CASAS, MARIA ELENA RUIZ LT 76 DEER RUN S/D ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	36.56 3.66	CITY PEN	DUPLICATE BILL
		TOTAL RELEASE:	40.22		
2018	24406	CASAS, MARIA ELENA RUIZ LT 76 DEER RUN S/D ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	35.55 3.56	CITY PEN	DUPLICATE BILL
		TOTAL RELEASE:	39.11		
2016	2059	RUIZ, MARIA ELENA CASAS 2644 DEER RUN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	16.52 1.65	CITY PEN	DUPLICATE BILL
		TOTAL RELEASE:	18.17		
2017	69	RUIZ, MARIA ELENA CASAS 2644 DEER RUN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	16.83 1.68 2.18	CITY PEN INT	DUPLICATE BILL
		TOTAL RELEASE:	20.69		
2018	289	RUIZ, MARIA ELENA CASAS 2644 DEER RUN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	16.30 1.63 0.76	CITY PEN INT	DUPLICATE BILL
		TOTAL RELEASE:	18.69		

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

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
		<u>EDGECOMBE COUNTY</u>		
2009	23007	WEAVER, WILLIE F WEAVER, VENESTER 1011 LEGGETT RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	238.08 1.79	CITY INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	239.87	

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner 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.

PROJECT ORDINANCE/TRANSFER STATION IMPROVEMENTS

The City Council received a project ordinance appropriating funds in the Public Transportation Fund for Tar River Transit Transfer Station improvements (\$145,000).

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2019-18** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR TRANSFER STATION IMPROVEMENTS** be adopted.

FY 2020 BUDGET REVIEW SCHEDULE

Consideration of scheduling budget review work sessions for review of the 2020 budget was tabled at the request of the City Manager.

WATER ASSESSMENT CONTRACT

The City Council received a water assessment contract with Teneisha Stokes Powell for water service to 4294 Lessie Trail (PIN #383109073325). Council was advised that the contract provides for prepayment of water meter and capacity fees of \$265 and for the water main and tap fees of \$4,000 to be assessed against the property.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the assessment contract with Teneisha Stokes Powell for water service to 4294 Lessie Trail (**C-2019-**) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City. This contract will be recorded in the Office of the Nash County Register of Deeds.

ENGINEERING SERVICES TASK ORDER NO. 8/SCREW PUMP REPLACEMENT

The City Council was provided with Task Order No. 8 on a contract with L. E. Wooten & Company d/b/a The Wooten Company for engineering services as follows:

TASK ORDER 8 - \$32,600:

- Design services, bidding/negotiations, construction contract administration and construction observation for the replacement of two (2) screw pumps

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that Task Order No. 8 with L. E. Wooten & Company d/b/a The Wooten Company be approved, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the Task Order on behalf of the City. Task Order No. 8 will be filed with the original contract (**C-2015-15**) in the office of the City Clerk.

REAL PROPERTY EXCHANGE/LOG CABIN HOMES

Public Works Director, Brad Kerr, provided the City Council with a Purchase Option Agreement and Exchange Agreement with Log Cabin Homes, Ltd. relative to the proposed Monk to Mill Trail project. Council was advised the intent is to secure rights to the project right-of-way until NCDOT funding is available to complete the purchase.

The main terms of the Option and Exchange agreement were outlined, and Council was provided a resolution of intent to exchange property pursuant to NCGS 160A-271 for consideration. It was explained that the Engagement Agreement provides for the transfer of City property located at 2305 N. Wesleyan Boulevard (appraised at \$61,000), as a non-refundable option fee and in return the City will receive exclusive rights to obtain properties owned by Log Cabin Homes, Ltd. at a fixed price throughout the term of the agreement.

The City Manager recommended approval of the agreements.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2019-21** entitled **RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO EXCHANGE PROPERTY** be adopted. The resolution of intent states the City Council's intent to authorize the real property exchange at its May 13, 2019 meeting and authorizes the

City Clerk to advertise the property exchange in accordance with the provisions of N.C.G.S. 160A-271.

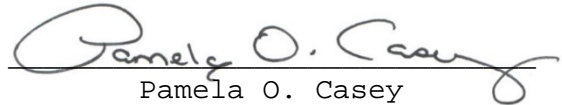
CLOSED SESSION (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The Mayor requested a Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 5:54 p.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as **ESM-525** 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 8:00 p.m. and there being no further business for regular session, adjourned the meeting.


Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk