

May 28, 2019

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular rescheduled 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 Councilmember Blackwell to offer prayer.

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

Staff Present: Rochelle D. Small-Toney, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Chris Beschler and Natasha Hampton, Assistant City Managers; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; Brad Kerr, Director of Public Works; Michael Baughn, Property and Risk Division Manager; Elton Daniels, Director of Parks and Recreation; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Bradley Walters, Gas Distribution Manager; Kevin Harris; Business Development Manager; Ronnie Raper, Interim Fire Chief; George Robinson, Police Chief; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

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.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Combs stated that over the years Council has been lenient in allowing people to speak from the podium. He said there have been some instances where statements have been made to individual Councilmembers or to people in the room and that is not the purpose of this portion of the meeting. He said it is an opportunity to bring a question or concern to the Council as a whole and in most cases Council will not respond but may refer the matter to staff or the Manager for follow-up. He stated if someone chooses not to follow the guidelines as explained they may be asked to sit down or may be removed from the meeting.

He 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:

- **Lamont Parker:**
 - Stated he has a solution for the gang problem in the City; said he is a convicted felon and was incarcerated with gang members;
 - Said not enough prevention is being exercised and the way to minimize a gang is to deal with the leadership; said we are actually locking up a lot of the leaders of the gangs thinking we are solving the problem but are making the problem worse;
 - Said a different approach to the problem needs to be taken because when the leaders are taken away it leaves the gang without leadership;

- Said a program needs to be implemented to bring gang members in to have conversations with Councilmembers to try to find a solution and possibly enter into a peace treaty of sorts;
 - Said he is able to do this because he is in the neighborhoods and able to talk to the gang members; and
 - Said he and Samuel Battle want Council to consider such meetings to hold gang leaders and members accountable for their actions
- **Warren Daughtridge/Samuel Battle:**
 - Mr. Daughtridge introduced himself and his friend, Samuel Battle, both residents of the City; Mr. Daughtridge said he and Mr. Battle are different in some obvious ways and are also alike in some not so obvious ways;
 - Said among other things they are both passionate about the kids in the City and about creating an environment in which they can grow and prosper and passionate about trying to understand each other and building bridges between communities;
 - Said Samuel's speech during the first Council meeting he attended inspired him to develop an idea about how to get groups of dis-similar people into meaningful dialogue;
 - Mr. Battle introduced his friend, Warren Daughtridge;
 - Mr. Battle apologized for losing his temper in the last meeting; he said it upsets him when kids are "messaging up" and it doesn't seem anyone cares;
 - He said Warren and others in the Love Rocky Mount group are getting together and doing things without any expectations and have done more in the past few weeks than anyone has done in years;
 - Mr. Daughtridge said the Love Rocky Mount group is not anti-anything but are about breaking down barriers and are pro-dialogue; pro-committed to trying to understand each other and pro-committed loving their neighbors as they do themselves; and pro living the golden rule "doing unto others as we would have them do unto us";
 - Mr. Daughtridge said that several Councilmembers have been invited to engage with them; they want all to know they are here with open arms and ears, with open hearts and minds and willing, helping hands and together will make a difference in the City;
 - He invited Council to come join "Love Rocky Mount"
- **Gloria Davis**
 - Stated she lives in the Meadowbrook Community;
 - Thanked those who assisted with the Meadowbrook Community Improvement Association clean-up campaign on May 4, 2019;
 - Said these are people who made a difference by their actions and identified many who assisted in the effort;
 - Said she has reached out to Elton Daniels and Kelly Cook of the City of Rocky Mount for ongoing cleanup;
 - Added that she supports the proposed hotel/retail and housing development
- **Ron Green:**
 - Thanked the Council and the City Manager for allowing the Boys and Girls Club partnership with the City of Rocky Mount to be able to take the initiative into Williford School;
 - Invited those speaking about young people to come and "sit at the table" and come up with solutions because the Boys & Girls Club serves over 1,400 young people;
 - Gave an update relative to the Williford School initiative and said that 40 of the most fragile young people in the school were identified and as a result of the program absenteeism and reading scores were much improved;
 - Said if young people are provided the necessary resources and encouraging words are shared that they can – then they can;
 - Recited a quote by Frederick Douglass, "It is easier to build strong kids [children] than repair broken men";
 - Said young people need help and there needs to be enough resources in place so that young people have every opportunity

- **Robert Davis:**
 - Said he thinks he is known as a person who will come to the Council if there is an issue and that he would also like to be known as a person who will tell the Council if they are doing a good job and said they are;
 - Said he is seeing progress for the first time since he has been in the City;
 - Spoke in support of the hotel/retail/housing Downtown Project
 - Said for once the City is coming together as one City and contributed that progress to years of work of this City Council;
 - He thanked the Council and said they are doing a good job;
 - Said he knows the job of a Councilmember is not easy but asked them to continue their work and overlook those who try to tear the City down;
 - Said as long as people allow the railroad track to divide the City it will never go anywhere; he said the railroad track has created division; encouraged Council to continue its good work

- **Samuel Battle:**
 - Said this past weekend a couple of his friends came from Washington, DC and they went to the Booker T gym and it was closed; he said the gym in Rocky Mount was open; questioned why a gym is closed on one side of town and open on the other and why the times they are open would vary;
 - Said things need to be upgraded on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount and they want a water park on that side of town; said there should be the same facilities in his neighborhood as in South Rocky Mount; and added Booker T gym needs an upgrade and air conditioning;
 - Said kids from his neighborhood are afraid to go to South Rocky Mount because of gangs;
 - Said the Edgecombe County side of town needs the same facilities as the Nash County side of the City

- **Jeannette Cobb:**
 - Said she is honored to be before Council;
 - Said Council represents a grand experience of a work in progress called DEMOCRACY or as she was corrected, a republic;
 - Said she is a 71, soon to be 72, retired teacher;
 - Outlined the profile of an American voter: 1) female; 2) a daughter; 3) formerly single; 4) wife; 5) mama; 6) college grad; 7) grandmother of 3 granddaughters; 8) aunt; 9) cousin; 10) niece; 11) has a host of friends from different places and different spaces at different times; 12) is a caretaker (took care of her grandparents who raised her and cared for her mentally ill mother); 13) is a patriarch;
 - Said while seldom given credit as a living testimony of our country's success, the women of America have the power to battle if they will join hands to use it and said "make no mistake, we women are ready"

- **Tosha Aldridge:**
 - Said for 3 years she has appeared before Council at various times with different people in different positions speaking on the animals and for three years there has been a lot of turmoil;
 - Said she has gotten a lot of ridicule, name calling and a lot of flack but has learned a lot in the process, but this past week was very detrimental and said a volunteer at the animal shelter decided to include her in false allegations and to make matters worse a couple months ago the Councilmember in her ward alleged false allegations against her at a place where she volunteers and the allegations were proven to be false;
 - *Note: Mayor Combs asked her not to address individual Councilmembers;*
 - Said for 3 years she has not gotten anywhere and for 10 months she has been emailing about the Animal Care & Advisory Board and for 10 months received no response;
 - Said she wanted to talk about the positives that animals can bring and about what the people she works with and the organizations and boards on which she serves do;
 - Said during the floods they received over 43,000 pounds of dog food donations which were turned down by the Rocky Mount shelter; said they provided food to Virginia, South Carolina and numerous places in North Carolina; said she has had to turn down camera equipment for grants they could have received for the animal shelter;

- Said numerous resources are available and a number of people are willing to assist but no one wants to listen, and it seems animals don't matter; said she is asking the Council to listen

Mayor Combs reported that a number of appointments have been made to the Animal Care & Advisory Board and the intent is to set up the first meeting within the next two weeks.

- ***Dr. Kim Koo:***
 - Said as a resident she is thrilled to hear about the upcoming construction near the Event Center;
 - Said the proposed construction includes 60 workforce housing units on Tarboro Street that can meet some of the housing needs and the possible construction of a tier-one hotel and accompanying shops;
 - Said she fully supports such moves that will bring much needed progress, investment, jobs and affordable housing to the communities surround the Event Center;
 - Said she has also noticed that at each step of the way negative criticism has been directed at each project without acceptable alternative suggestions;
 - Said she had hoped by this century there would be greater understanding and enlightenment for equitable treatment for all issues such as housing, employment, healthcare and the environment;
 - Said the cost of doing business that favors such equitable moves has always been used to slam them down...for example: Medicaid expansion and said that it is unfortunate as such reasoning serves only to widen the vast inequities already in place; and said she hopes the City Council continues to do what it can to narrow the inequity gap
- ***Nehemiah Smith:***
 - Asked how a beach trip, brown bag lunches, gently used furniture and new toys were ever a remedy for poverty;
 - Said these things never scratch the surface for a remedy for poverty and are no solution for the 15 impoverished communities in the City;
 - Said there are those lifting up new agenda-backed heroes for the black community in an effort to dismiss the good work already being done and so they come to his community with handouts and in the same breath disparage workforce housing and those organizations who are helping people help themselves – said that is double mindedness;
 - Said there are organizations within some of the communities that offer trade training and certification, provide access to healthcare and allow troubled youth to complete their high school education – in other words, allowing people to think for themselves instead of thinking for them;
 - Said there are not deficits of toys or gently used furniture or beach trips in the communities, but there are deficits of opportunity and well-funded, quality education, summer leadership programs and mentoring; those are things that you will find at the very core of killing poverty in any community;
 - Recited Latin for the quote “I think, therefore, I am”;
 - Said the problem with the poverty concern is – singular thinking presented as collective concern and said this is an issue of sustainable value versus temporary comfort and that Proverbs 3:5 and 6 and Proverbs 14:12 speaks to that;
 - Encouraged those present to continue to do the good work they are doing to help people help themselves
- ***Michael Deloatch:***
 - Said he grew up in South Rocky Mount and is currently playing professional basketball overseas and is here today to let Council know he is willing to do whatever he can to help bring this community together;
 - Said he has been having a basketball camp every since he became pro and it is scheduled for this weekend at the South Rocky Mount gym; said he has partnered

with the City and Chris Allen at South Rocky Mount and has Todd Gurley coming to town from the Rams along with Tyquan Lewis from the Colts;

- Said they are trying to come together to make this City work; said he focuses a lot of South Rocky Mount because that is where he is from and tries to do a lot of things in that area to help and hopes to partner with the City for more events;
 - Thanked the Council and said he is here and reachable and willing to help the City become one again; said he gets a lot of support from the City especially the young generation;
 - Said he is part owner of Moe & Dees and would like to see a little more light down there
- ***Sue Perry Cole:***
 - Said she speaks today as a long-time resident of an under-resourced neighborhood adjacent to Downtown;
 - Said in 2014 the City caused a Housing Study to be conducted that ranked neighborhoods according to investment quality; said that study found that there were 14 under-resourced neighborhoods, many clustered on the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount and adjacent to Downtown;
 - Said the disinvestment in these neighborhoods has occurred over decades so currently in the City there are neighborhoods that do not have balanced investment or balanced quality of life;
 - Said that is why residents like her were so excited about the City Council's leadership relative to Downtown development and because they saw an opportunity for their neighborhoods to reverse the tide of disinvestment;
 - Said it is known that a strong central city is critical to the vitality of both Nash and Edgecombe Counties and it is also known that surrounding communities such as Raleigh, Durham and as far away as Asheville and Charlotte have thriving Downtowns and said she understands the Event Center was intended to create jobs, enhance the tax base and increase investment in the Downtown and the critical point is surrounding Downtown neighborhoods and said she hopes that will include affordable workforce housing in the Downtown communities;
 - Said she supports continuing to build the momentum of investment in the Downtown that would include the investment by the Downtown Developer from Tennessee;
 - Said the residents in these underserved communities have a vision of one Rocky Mount, a united Rocky Mount, where there's a balanced quality of life;
 - Encouraged the Council to stay the course and continue the Downtown investment strategy so that inclusive, equitable and shared prosperity that will benefit all of the City's residents can be achieved
 - ***Troy Davis:***
 - Said his concern is public safety and his recent incident at City Hall is well documented; he apologized for the language used, but not for his outrage and said his outrage is justified as a community citizen and someone fully invested in the success of this community (owns 14 houses);
 - Said he had just witnessed two young women fighting each other in the street punching and scratching and called the police; said he is insulted that police are reporting an 8-minute response time when it was at the very least a 20-minute response time and a lone police officer arrived;
 - Said there was an injury and he came to City Hall to voice his frustration only to be surprised and confronted by security which was seemingly put in place overnight and said he wished that security was in place in underserved communities;
 - Said this is about security in our communities and expecting expedient response from police and said he is still frustrated and outraged and believes there are thousands of others just as frustrated
 - ***Stacey Graham:***
 - Said she is usually talking about the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board and was going to gently remind Council that the Board was adopted by Council on April 9, 2018 and she has just been advised there are enough people on the Board to establish a quorum and hold a meeting;

- Said she appreciates that but there has never been a posting of a vacancy for any Board or Commission on the City's website and it is hard to find interested, qualified people for any position when you don't communicate the need and asked that communication be better;
- Said she has spoken about children's rights and welfare and said letting children know that they matter is key to child development; it reduces risk factors attributed to criminality, drug abuse, and human trafficking; said big results start with small actions no matter the race or the location and, as always, she is happy to provide research that supports her statement

Mayor Combs reported that information has been furnished to the newspaper relative to vacancies on Boards and Commissions and articles have been printed in the newspaper relative to those vacancies.

- ***Nathlyn Ohree:***

- Said she comes with mixed emotions because she is so happy to be alive and to represent the NAACP;
- Said the organization was founded in 1909 after the Chicago riot of 1908 and is not just a black organization;
- Said it was formed by four Whites and two African-Americans and the mission is to secure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons and to this point they are still working;
- Said she is here lifting up those hopes and dreams;
- Said she is thankful to the Mayor and City Council for the proclamation that was presented yesterday at Jack Laughery Park to her mother who is almost 95 years old and was on the front page of the paper; said they honored her uncle who went to the Korean war in 1955 and was killed and President Trump was able to negotiate and have 55 bodies returned to the United States last summer including William Hoover Jones (her uncle) who was one of three soldiers positively identified through DNA;
- Said the family were honored at the park and thanked Councilmember Bullock for the beautiful prayer and Councilmembers for their representation and the proclamation; she said it touched her family's heart and her family from out of state were very uplifted by that experience and had many good things to say about Rocky Mount;
- Said some good things are happening in Rocky Mount (including the swimming park that does exist on the Edgecombe side);
- Said we need to do a better job identifying the good things

- ***Alicia Rowland, Kaitlynn Harris and Maria Avila:***

- Spoke in opposition of illegal street racing;
- Said there are many roads in Rocky Mount known for this dangerous activity such as Arlington Extension, S. Church Street, Kingston Avenue, Gold Rock Road and many more as well as highways coming into our City;
- Said the irresponsible juveniles and adults are not only putting their own and others' lives in danger but often times have defenseless passengers in the vehicles with them;
- Provided statistics relative to drag racing;
- Said police are aware of the incidences and nothing has been done to address this issue;
- Spoke in favor of seatbelt use and proper restraints for children; said you can go to any fire station in the City with a ticket or citation and they will show you how to buckle your child in a safety seat and provide you with a paper so that you can have your ticket dismissed; said when there are no consequences for actions safety precautions are not taken and there should be a structure in place with stricter enforcement of seatbelts;
- Ms. Avila told the Council her child died as a result of illegal drag racing less than 9 months ago;
- Said street racing is not being addressed and she would like to see more police presence and cameras on the street;
- Asked Council to take measures and offered suggestions such as implementing a street racing task force and speed bumps; said there is a memorial to her son on Arlington Extension;

- Said she would like to see signs warning people not to street race;
- Asked Council to help change this;
- Added it took over 20 minutes for police to arrive on Arlington Extension;
- Said Police agree there is a problem but it has not been addressed

Mayor Combs requested that the City Manager investigate this matter and provide a report to Council.

- ***Curmilus Dancy:***
 - Told Council he has been attending meetings in Rocky Mount longer than the current Councilmembers have been in place;
 - Gave a list of organizations in which he has been involved;
 - Said a record of Council's actions are in the minutes and on video;
 - Thanked the Council, City Manager, staff, Fire and Police for a job well done and said the City Manager has proven herself to be professional and appreciated her for standing strong as a woman;
 - Appreciated Elizabeth Ohree and questioned why Council was not present at the event at Jack Laughery Park;
 - Said he documents meeting of the Council and many other events in Rocky Mount

EXCHANGE AGREEMENT/LOG CABIN HOMES

The City Council was provided with a proposed Purchase Option Agreement and Exchange Agreement for parcels associated with the proposed Monk to Mill Trail Project. It was noted that Council intends to enter into the Exchange Agreement that provides for the transfer of City Property at 2305 N. Wesleyan Boulevard for the purpose of securing the right of way to purchase properties owned by Log Cabin Homes (LCH) located on the east side of Middle Street and 410 N. Pearl Street through June 30, 2026.

Council was advised that the Exchange Agreement provides for the transfer of the City property appraised at \$61,000, as a non-refundable option fee, and in return the City would receive exclusive rights to obtain properties owned by LCH at fixed price throughout the term of the agreement.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Rogers unanimously carried that consideration of the property exchange be deferred until the June 10, 2019 meeting of the City Council.

FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

The City Council received the followings requests for permission to conduct fireworks displays:

1. Request from Englewood Baptist Church for permission to conduct a fireworks display on church property at 1350 South Winstead Avenue on Thursday, July 4, 2019 - event time approximately 9:15 p.m. (alternate date - July 5, 2019); and
2. Request from City of Rocky Mount for permission to conduct a fireworks display at 550 Independence Drive (Sports Complex) on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 - event time 9 p.m. (alternate date - July 10, 2019)

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the fireworks requests be granted subject to compliance with the provisions of the City's policies and the State Fire Code.

AMENDED GRANT REQUEST/GOLDEN LEAF

The City Council was informed that the City was previously awarded funding from the Golden LEAF Hurricane Disaster Recovery Grant Program in the amount of \$175,000 to assist with the Parkers Canal Stream Stabilization project. It was noted that this was roughly 50% of the original estimate of \$354,150 for design and construction and after placing the project out for bid twice, proposals came in exceeding that amount due to increased construction costs.

The City Council was provided with a grant amendment to the Golden LEAF Foundation requesting an increase of the current grant award by \$128,926 for a total of \$303,926 for the design, construction and construction contingency.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that staff be authorized to submit the amended grant request to the Golden LEAF Foundation and that the Mayor, City Manager and appropriate staff be authorized to execute any required documentation and certifications, including the subsequent grant agreement.

LEASE AGREEMENTS

The City Council was provided with lease agreements for consideration. It was noted that public notice has been provided in accordance with NCGS 160A-272 relative to the following lease agreements for City-owned property:

LEASE RENEWALS:

- a) Natarlin Best, doing business as, Best Lawrence Law, P.A. - 2,183 square feet of space in the Burnett Building located at 184-188 East Thomas Street in the Historic Douglas Block (terms are: Two (2) year (April 1, 2019 - April 1, 2021) lease @ \$1,819/month - with option of one (1) two (2) year extension of current lease upon at least ninety (90) days written notice to the City)(**C-2019-14**);
- b) Dr. Sharon Romney, doing business as, Wee Care Pediatrics - 2,203 square feet of space in the Stokes Building located at 200-210 East Thomas Street in the Historic Douglas Block (terms are: Two (2) year (April 1, 2019 - April 1, 2021) lease @ \$1,833/month - with option of one (1) two (2) year extension of current lease upon at least ninety (90) days written notice to the City)(**C-2019-15**);
- c) Kimberly Thigpen, doing business as, The Bath Place - 677 square feet of space in the Douglas Building located at 205 NE Main Street in the Historic Douglas Block (terms are: Two (2) year (April 1, 2019 - April 1, 2021) lease @ \$564/month - with option of one (1) two (2) year extension of current lease upon at least ninety (90) days written notice to the City)(**C-2019-16**);
- d) Janice C. Brinkley, doing business as, Brinkley's TV & Appliance - 544 square feet of space in the Manhattan Building located at 152-154 East Thomas Street in the Historic Douglas Block (terms are: Two (2) year (April 1, 2019 - April 1, 2021) lease @ \$861/month - with option of one (1) two (2) year extension of current lease upon at least ninety (90) days written notice to the City)(**C-2019-17**);
- e) Chivon P. Turner, doing business as, Nancy's Creations - 739 square feet of space in the Douglas Building located at 211 NE Main Street in the Historic Douglas Block (terms are: Two (2) year (April 1, 2019 - April 1, 2021) lease @ \$616/month - with option of one (1) two (2) year extension of current lease upon at least ninety (90) days written notice to the City)(**C-2019-18**);
- f) Gary Sharpe, doing business as, Hotline Express - Room 308 consisting of 230 square feet of space in the Train Station located at the

intersection of Hammond Street and Florida Avenue (terms are: Two (2) year (April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2021) lease @ \$255/month - will be renewable with acceptance of both parties)(**C-2019-19**);

- g) Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce - 4,800 square feet on the Second Floor and 400 square feet on the Third Floor of the Helen P. Gay Historic Train Station (Four (4) year (February 1, 2019 - February 1, 2023) lease @ \$2,197 monthly; automatic annual renewal of lease after 4 years unless terminated)(**C-2019-20**)

NEW LEASE:

- h) The Railroad Museum - 333 square feet (suites 106 and 107 of the Helen P. Gay Historic Train Station - lease begins March 1, 2019 and continues until terminated @ annual payment of \$1; must be used as a railroad museum)(**C-2019-21**)

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the Lease Agreements as outlined above be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreements on behalf of the City.

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY FACILITY - CHANGE ORDER NO. 5/BARNHILL/HOLT BROTHERS AND CHANGE ORDER NO. 2/CMTS

The City Council was provided with Change Order No. 5 on a contract with Barnhill/Holt Brothers relative to the Rocky Mount Event Center concerning an amendment to the CMTS construction management contract. The Council was advised the change order includes a request to extend the contractual date of substantial completion by 12 days due to weather and is a no cost change order for the contractor.

Approval of CMTS Change Order No. 2 to increase the compensation in the owner's representative's agreement with the City from \$269,529.70 to \$294,529.70 (an increase of \$25,000) was also requested to compensate the owner's representative for time and expense incurred. Council was advised that the Change Order is not an increase to the project budget and the proposed change will be covered by the design builder's construction contingency.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the change orders be approved and that the Mayor and/or City Manager and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City.

The Change Orders will be filed with the original contract (**C-2016-31**) and Change Orders No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 with Barnhill/Holt Brothers and with the original contract (**C-2017-3**) with CMTS, LLC in the City Clerk's Office.

NORTH CAROLINA SCIENCE MUSEUMS GRANT

The City Council was advised that the traveling exhibits at the Children's Museum receives funding from two primary sources, the City and the North Carolina Science Museums Grant (NCSMGP). They were further advised that the NCSMGP cycle began May 1, 2019 and the deadline to apply is May 31, 2019. It was noted that while no match is required the City must show that the museum generates a larger portion of their operating funds from non-State revenue. A request was made for authorization to submit the online application.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that staff be authorized to submit the grant application and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute any subsequent grant agreement on behalf of the City.

FY 2019 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION'S CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES

The City Council was provided with FY 2019 Certifications and Assurances for Transit grant funding. They were advised that the certifications and assurances assure and certify compliance with the laws and regulations governing federally assisted grant programs in reference to public transportation. It was recommended that Council approve the FY 2019 Certifications and Assurances.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the Certifications and Assurances be approved, and the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized the executed same as appropriate on behalf of the City.

BID/GAS PIPES

The City Council received the tabulation of bids received for gas pipes. Council was advised that the pipe order will be utilized for North Carolina Department of Transportation projects U-5596, R-5720 and U-5026 (Sunset, Eastern Avenue and Nash Community College) which will require relocation of existing natural gas facilities in FY 2020. Bids were received and opened on April 30, 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-2019-8**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Consolidated Pipe and Supply at a total cost of \$168,100 and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

RESOLUTION APPROVING DEVELOPER FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZATION PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Council previously financed the acquisition, construction and equipping of the Rocky Mount Event Center to provide a catalyst for the growth and revitalization of Downtown Rocky Mount and has identified a need for a hotel in Downtown Rocky Mount to attract more events to the Event Center and to continue the revitalization of the area, along with parking, retail and downtown living.

It was noted that the Council previously entered into a Letter of Intent with Hunt Services, LLC, a Tennessee corporation pursuant to which Hunt Services would consider developing a mixed-use development including a 107-key dual branded hotel (either Hilton or Marriott), retail, residential apartments/condos and one or more parking structures/facilities (approximately 800 spaces).

Council was advised that a Request for Qualifications was issued seeking qualifications from developers and following due consideration

of the information submitted to the City by Hunt Services and other relevant information staff recommends selection of Hunt Services as the developer to perform the Downtown Development Project as a public-private project.

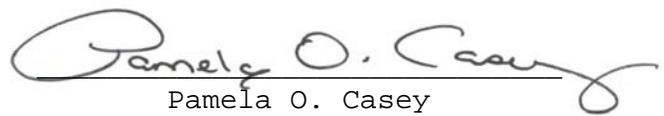
Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2019-22** entitled **RESOLUTION APPROVING DEVELOPER FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP** be adopted; and that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise a public hearing relative to the summary of material terms (for 30 days) for the proposed Development Agreement be held on July 8, 2019 at the City Council's regularly scheduled meeting.

Councilmember Miller stated that she believes the proposed project is very good and it is important that the details be worked out to protect the City but, as a Councilmember, she believes each are responsible for the fiscal integrity of the City and too many times Council comes to a Committee of the Whole meeting and subsequently to a Council meeting to push forward something that Council has not seen prior to either of those meetings. She said she knows this deal is in the works, but staff needs to act in time and get the information to Council in time that they have time to review it.

Mayor Combs noted that today's action does not formally approve the project but only approves the concept of a development agreement with a developer and a lot of final terms and conditions will have to be met not only locally, but at the state level.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.



Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk