

September 23, 2019

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular session scheduled for 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.

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; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer; Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager; George Robinson, Police Chief; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Amy Staton, Director of Finance; Brenton Bent, Director of Water Resources; Brad Kerr, Public Works Director; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Paula Carbone, Senior Internal Auditor; Tanika Cooper, Executive Assistant CMO; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Michael Roupp, Interim Division Chief of Operations; Darwin Moore, Division Chief; Tracey Drewery, Division Chief; William Hale, Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal; JoSeth Bocook, Planning Administrator; Elayne Henderson, Director of Human Resources; Kevin Harris, Business Development Manager; Todd Gardner, Transit Administrator; Bernetta Smith, Planner; Matthew Tillery, Zoning Officer; Beth Carlton, Police Sergeant; Donna Bradley, Administrative Secretary, Senior Center; Bob League, Principal Transportation Planner; Jordan Reedy, Transportation Planner; Debbie Baines, Senior Zoning Officer; Stephanie Goodrich, Senior Planner; Sandra Lynch, Planning Technician; Joel Dunn, Recreation Superintendent; Rebecka Morgan, Senior Center Supervisor; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Also in attendance were the following **Energy Resources Employees:** Amy Blanton; Alex Parker; Michael Winkler; Bradley Walters; Darryl Strother; Joey Cascell; Jerry Sherrod; Steve McBride; Will Barnes; Steve LeGay; Daniel Hicks; Nick Delbridge; Miguel Salazar; Joey Joyner; Luis Limon; Nick Peaden; Ben Barnes; Dennis Evans; Phillip Wells; Phillip Collins; Lakesha Arrington; Rob Pate; Ryan Thompson; Scott Armstrong; Andy Hicks; Zach Clayton; Trevor Evans; Michael Proctor; Tim Coley; Sammy Moss; John Flowers; Ronald Lee; Benji Turner; Brenda Williams; Bryan Nelms; Denice Jones; Glendoria Perry; Jerry Hawkins; John Locke; Joshua Fore; Juan Chavez; Matt Proctor; Mike Griffin; Ryan Black; Spencer Leonard; Terry Pittman; and Tim Phelps.

Security Officers: Police Sergeants L. S. Parker, Jr. and Stoney Battle.

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

WELCOME

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Rogers and unanimously carried that the minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held September 9, 2019 be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

The City Council received the minutes from a regular scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, September 9, 2019. The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE FREDERICK E. TURNAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Rochelle Small-Toney
Pamela O. Casey
Chris Beschler
Natasha Hampton
Jessie Nunery
Nicki Gurganus
Paula Carbone
Ken Hunter
Tanika Cooper
Kim Batts
Richard J. Rose

MEMBERS ABSENT:

E. Lois Watkins

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dev Pathik, CEO SFM
Dave Pritchett, COO SFM
Art Thomason, Rocky Mount Event Center General Manager

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and welcomed all present. The Mayor Pro Tem outlined the guidelines for Committee of the Whole work sessions and recognized the City Manager to introduce the agenda items.

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney requested a closed session for discussion relative to a matter concerning attorney/client privilege.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 5:05 p.m. for the purpose stated. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as **ESM-537** at the end of Minute Book 36 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee in regular session at 7:00 p.m. and the Committee of the Whole adjourned.

It was noted that the Council went into a Closed Session for attorney/client privilege and the remaining items on the Committee of the Whole agenda were not reached.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole be approved.

COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER**Downtown Website**

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney introduced Kevin Harris, Development Manager, to give an overview of a newly developed Downtown website page.

Mr. Harris stated that staff has worked to make the new website page user-friendly, helpful and vibrant. He provided an overview of the website page.

Mayor Combs thanked Mr. Harris for the presentation.

PUBLIC POWER AND PUBLIC NATURAL GAS WEEK

The Mayor recognized Energy Resources staff in attendance and presented a Proclamation proclaiming October 6-12, 2019 as Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week in the City of Rocky Mount to Bradley Walters, Gas Operations Manager, and Darryl Strother, Electric Distribution Manager.

Mayor Combs congratulated the Department of Energy Resources on receiving the awards and he and City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney joined Mr. Walters and Mr. Strother for a photograph.

COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of October 2019 as Community Planning Month in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Will Deaton, Director of Development Services, and the following City staff: Debbie Baines; Stephanie Goodrich; JoSeth Bocook; Sandra Lynch; Bernetta Smith; Jordan Reedy; Matthew Tillery; Bob League. The Mayor and City Manager joined them for a photograph.

SENIOR CENTER MONTH

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of September 2019 as Senior Center Month in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Joel Dunn, Recreation Superintendent, and the following Parks and Recreation staff: Rebecka Morgan and Donna Bradley. The Mayor and City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney joined them for a photograph.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of October 2019 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Elayne Henderson, Human Resources Director. The Mayor and City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney joined Ms. Henderson for a photograph.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming September 15 through October 15, 2019 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Maritza Mata Betancourt. The Mayor and City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney joined Ms. Betancourt for a photograph.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

- ***Dr. Kim E. Koo:***
 - Said her recent utility statement was accompanied by the monthly newsletter announcing the BBQ Throw Down scheduled for October 11th and 12th and said the event is touted to celebrate Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week;
 - Said she has problems with such an event using tax dollars;
 - Said 150 countries participated in bringing to the attention of the world recently that we all need to take climate change seriously and said young people are taking the lead in this struggle;
 - Said unless something is done and soon young people and those who come after them have no future;
 - Said the flyer from City Hall announces the celebration of the continued use of fossil fuels disguised as natural gas;
 - Said natural gas contributes in a major way to global warming;
 - Said perhaps Council does not believe in the environmental crisis or is intentionally avoiding the issue like the avoidance of petitions to rescind support for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline;
 - Said at the very least the event should be changed to a celebration of Earth Day;
 - Said this is the time Council can indicate it is aware of this major program;
 - Said hurricanes are growing like cockroaches and the City has already been devastated from rain storms and major hurricanes;
 - Questioned if citizens are just supposed to pick up the pieces and start again;
 - Said the second contradiction in the newsletter is the information that as a stockholder of the City's public power she benefits from this service;
 - Said her utility bill was over \$400 this and last month and she is not benefiting because she knows people in Durham are paying less than \$100 per month for utility bills and asked that Council think about this

- ***Nehemiah Smith, Jr.:***
 - Said a candidate for Council recently told him he talks too much about race at Council meetings;
 - Said the racial divide in the City must be addressed and it is at the core of every major issue in this City;
 - Said Sue Perry talks about fair and affordable housing which is race and Dr. Koo talks about environmental and employment issues which is race;
 - Said the issue of race divides us economically, socially, religiously and politically however no one wants to address it – the basis of America's original sin;
 - Said Rocky Mount is small enough to deal with the issue and perhaps settle it once and for all and perhaps our solutions can and will benefit society at large;
 - Said if we refuse to deal with it or continue to ignore the fact that it exists, we will be held accountable when it explodes and causes irrevocable damage;
 - Quoted British theologian Richard Hooker by saying “change is not made without inconvenience, even from worst to better”

- ***Samuel Battle:***
 - Said in 2013 he saved a child who was shot nine times at the Weeks Armstrong project in a gang-related incident and kept the child awake until the ambulance arrived;

- Said he wants to know who is taking money from the Event Center;
- Questioned if the City owns the OIC building and said two years ago the City put in a new air conditioning unit and air conditioning is still needed in the Booker T. Washington gym
- Said Council is wearing too many hats

Mayor Combs asked Mr. Battle not to call individual names of Council or citizens.

- ***William O'Keeffe:***

- Said he left the last Council meeting on September 9 very hurt and angry because at the beginning of the meeting there was conversation remembering 400 years of slavery and the 40 years since the Sanitation Workers Strike and a moment of silence and remembrance in prayer and at no point in the meeting were the events of September 11 ever mentioned;
- Said there was no moment of silence and no prayer for the lives lost that day or their families or for those still dying from the effects of that day;
- Said too many people have become complacent as to what happened in this country on that day;
- Said three days later in the paper there was a story of a first responders' memorial dedication and not until the last paragraph on page 5 was it noted that the Mayor had proclaimed September 11 as Patriot Day in the City;
- Said the proclamation was too little too late and requested that the rest of his time be used for a moment of silence in memory of September 11

- ***Stacey Graham:***

- Said two weeks ago the Parks and Recreation Department placed numerous signs at the dog park saying that mowing and maintenance would occur on Monday between 9 and 11 a.m. and trash removal would occur Tuesday through Friday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. and no owners or dogs would be allowed in the park at those times;
- Said last Tuesday at 7 a.m. the dog park was closed for mowing and when questioned the supervisor said he didn't care what the sign said even though the City posted the sign;
- Said the easy things should be easy and for some reason sometimes the City makes things harder than they should be, to the detriment of its reputation and public relations;
- Requested the City hold true to the signs it posts

- ***Leroy Williams:***

- Said he is speaking on unity;
- Said he hopes everyone is aware that GK Butterfield endorsed HR 40 – the study of reparations;
- Said the City advocates for unity and is concerned about crime, poverty and gentrification;
- Said the debt owed to descendants of slavery (ADOS) is supported by certain individuals running for public office;
- Requested the City Council draft a formal letter to Congress in support of reparations for descendants of American slaves and said the reason for reparations are numerous - to close the racial wealth gap and to take care of affordable housing;
- Requested he be advised to whom to make this request if Council is not the proper party

The Mayor closed the public petitions portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. TEMPORARY STREET CLOSING (recommended for approval):

- a. Request by Bob League for permission to close Dartmour Court from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 for a National Night Out celebration

B. AD VALOREM TAX RELEASES:(recommended for adoption)

SCHEDULE A - acknowledge receipt of report of the following 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>				
2019	545	BAXTER HEALTHCARE CORPORATION PO BOX 4900 DEPT-313 SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85261 TOTAL RELEASE:	4.55 4.55	PEN LATE LIST REMOVAL
2019	336	CARDTRONICS USA INC 1235 NORTH LOOP WEST, SUITE 205 HOUSTON, TX 77008 TOTAL RELEASE:	4.07 4.07	PEN LATE LIST REMOVAL
2019	429	CHEP USA PO BOX 802206 DALLAS, TX 75380 TOTAL RELEASE:	91.82 91.82	PEN LATE LIST REMOVAL
2019	6555	SWINSON, DAVID E 804 MARIGOLD ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801 TOTAL RELEASE:	18.50 18.50	CITY VALUATION CORRECTION
2019	6945	TYLER, SHELIA W 932 LONG AVE ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801 TOTAL RELEASE:	10.00 10.00	DOG NO DOG
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>				
2019	11618	STONE, LEON B & MELISSA S 1620 DEERWALK DR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 TOTAL RELEASE:	17.35 17.35	PEN LATE LIST REMOVAL
2019	2491	US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION 1310 MADRID ST SUITE 100 MARSHALL, MN 56258 TOTAL RELEASE:	4.39 4.39	CITY OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

SCHEDULE B - approve release and/or refund of the following taxes over \$100:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
<u>EDGECOMBE COUNTY</u>				
2019	500	BOTTOMS INSURANCE SERVICE INC 1932 STONE ROSE DR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 TOTAL RELEASE:	124.03 12.40 136.43	CITY OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS PEN

2019	23637	REVIS, WILLIAM LEE REVIS, NICOLE P DW ON LEASED LAND ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801 TOTAL RELEASE:	614.98	CITY	OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
			614.98		
2019	6091	THORNE, WILLIE CHARLES 620 BUENA VISTA ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801 TOTAL RELEASE:	164.57	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
			164.57		
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>					
2019	2062	BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY PO BOX 7948 ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 TOTAL RELEASE:	427.26	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
			427.26		
2019	14304	CHAPMAN, LARRY RAY 1768 PEELE RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 TOTAL RELEASE:	474.50	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
			474.50		
2019	1717	ROCKY MOUNT CROWN & BRIDGE 3196 COLEY RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 TOTAL RELEASE:	332.64	CITY	OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
			332.64		
2019	824	THORP, WILLIAM M & LINDSAY S 111 RIDGE LN CHAPEL HILL, NC 27514 TOTAL RELEASE:	56.03 10.00	CITY DOG	OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
			66.03		
2019	814	TRANSOURCE INC ATTN RICK HUDSON PO BOX 446 KERNERSVILLE, NC 27285 TOTAL RELEASE:	1701.21	CITY	DUPLICATE BILL
			1701.21		
2019	1626	U S CELLULAR 2520 SUNSET AVE ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 TOTAL RELEASE:	134.95	CITY	DUPLICATE BILL
			134.95		
2019	1392	U S CELLULAR 1440 JEFFREYS RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 TOTAL RELEASE:	134.95	CITY	DUPLICATE BILL
			134.95		

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the recommendations relative to the Consent Agenda items be approved inclusive of approval of the temporary street closing and tax releases.

FY 2021 SECTION 5310, 5311 AND 5339 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANTS/PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to FY 2021 Section 5310, 5311 and 5339 Public Transportation Grants for funding of \$1,402,995 through the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Public Transportation Program, for a portion of the Tar River Transit administrative, operating and capital expenses. It was explained this grant will require a local match of \$339,114.

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the Transit Grant application(s) be approved; that **Resolution No. R-2019-37** entitled **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM RESOLUTION FY 2021** be adopted; and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the required documentation, certifications and delegation of authority, including the subsequent grant agreement(s) on behalf of the City.

RESCIND MORATORIUM/DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

The City Council considered rescinding a moratorium imposed on June 11, 2018 and approval of a new process relative to property demolition.

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

- a. 1303 Cypress Street
- b. 332 N. Howell Street
- c. 4420 Jacobs Avenue
- d. 416 Middle Street
- e. 523 Nashville Road
- f. 319 Marigold Street
- g. 810 Mitchell Street
- h. 1209 Tarboro Street

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the moratorium on demolitions be rescinded and the new process approved; and that **Ordinance Nos. O-2019-65 and O-2019-66** 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.

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE CODE

The City Council was provided with an amendment to Chapter 5 of the City Code entitled "Buildings and Building Regulations" to add a new Article. VI. Entitled "Non-residential building maintenance code", Sec. 5-161 through Sec. 5-181 to establish a Non-Residential Building Maintenance Code.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. **O-2019-67** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT ENTITLED "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS" RELATIVE TO THE REPAIR,**

CLOSING AND/OR DEMOLITION OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES be adopted.

FY 2018-2019 DOWN EAST HOME CONSORTIUM (DEHC) CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND REPORTS (CAPER)

Assistant City Manager Natasha Hampton advised the City Council that the Down East Home Consortium (DEHC) Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation and Report (CAPER) for CDBG and HOME investment partnership programs is due to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by September 29, 2019. The Council was provided with a copy of the report which provides details on the previous program year's progress in implementing the goals of the Annual Action Plan and Consolidated Plan as well as expenditures related to these activities.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) be approved for submission to HUD on behalf of the City.

2019-2020 CAPE FEAR TUTORING REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT/CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)

The City Council was provided with a reimbursement contract with Cape Fear Tutoring, Inc. for 2019-2020 for healthy snacks provided during the After-School program. The Council was advised that Cape Fear Tutoring, Inc. is a federally funded nutrition program that provides partial reimbursement for healthy snacks and meals served to children and adults receiving day care and plays a vital role in improving the quality of day care and making it affordable for many low-income families.

The City Council was advised that, based on projected attendance numbers for the After-School program, the City's estimated reimbursement is \$6,100.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the reimbursement contract with Cape Fear Tutoring, Inc. be approved and that the Mayor and appropriate City agent(s) be authorized to execute the contract (C-2019-30) on behalf of the City.

BUILDING REUSE AND RESTORATION GRANTS/BABINGTON TECHNOLOGY AND FROZEN FOOD EXPRESS

The City Council was provided with applications to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for funding through the Rural Building Reuse Program for the following businesses:

- a. Babington Technology: \$200,000 (local cash match of \$12,500; City and Carolinas Gateway Partnership to arrange for local match; requirement to create 20 jobs); and
- b. Frozen Food Express: \$500,000 (local cash match of \$47,846; City and Carolinas Gateway Partnership to arrange for local match; requirement to create 59 jobs)

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the grant applications be approved;

that the Mayor be authorized to execute the grant applications on behalf of the City; that staff be authorized to submit the grant applications to the Rural Center; and that Resolution No. **R-2019-38** entitled **AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING REUSE PROGRAM - BABINGTON TECHNOLOGY BUILDING REUSE PROJECT** and Resolution No. **R-2019-39** entitled **AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING REUSE PROGRAM - FROZEN FOOD EXPRESS BUILDING REUSE PROJECT** be adopted. These resolutions authorize the cash match for each grant and for the City Manager to execute any additional documentation required.

Councilmember Knight stated that this Council is concerned about jobs and noted these companies are expected to create a total of 79 jobs.

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1/SUNSET AVENUE WATER TREATMENT PLANT HIGH SERVICE PUMP REPLACEMENT PROJECT - T.A. LOVING COMPANY

The City Council was provided with Change Order No. 1 on a contract with T. A. Loving Company relative to the replacement of the high service pump at the Sunset Avenue Water Treatment Plant.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the change order be approved, and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City, if required.

The Change Order will be filed with the original bid contract (**BD-2018-22**) in the City Clerk's Office.

GRANT/ASSISTANCE TO FIRE FIGHTERS(ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Council was informed that the Fire Department has been awarded the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$154,091 which will allow each fire station to be outfitted with heavy duty washers and dryers specialized for cleaning turnout gear and removing carcinogens that are deposited on the gear during structural firefighting. Council was advised that the grant requires a local match of \$15,000 and that this process is a cancer prevention intervention for the City's firefighters.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that acceptance of the grant and local match be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the grant agreement and any required certification(s)/documentation on behalf of the City.

REPORT OF EMPLOYEE CLAIM RESOLUTION/LANDIS FAULCON (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

City Attorney Richard J. Rose reported that a claim filed by employee Landis Faulcon has been resolved. The main terms of the agreement (**C-2019-31**) are as follows:

- Payment of the gross amount of \$500;

- Payment for the gross amount of 37.5 hours for compensation for sick leave (\$2,307.69), subject to all lawful withholdings; and
- Payment for the value of employee's accrued, but unused vacation, totaling \$39.8104 hours (\$2,449.87), subject to all lawful withholdings.

DOWN EAST VIKING FOOTBALL CLASSIC

The Mayor reminded all present of Down East Viking Football Classic scheduled for this coming weekend with the game to begin at 4 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Blackwell made comments. A summary of the comments are as follows:

- Everyone should understand that when OIC is discussed the City of Rocky Mount is discussed;
- In the mid-60s the City of Rocky Mount was faced with the same upheaval that all of America was facing relative to civil rights and the City's Human Relations Commission and its Director saw an article in *Jet* magazine about an innovative approach to civil rights that was founded by a Pastor in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by the name of Reverend Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan;
- Dr. Sullivan created a movement between black churches and industries in finding pathways of employment for people who had been intentionally disenfranchised from working;
- Pastors got together with the community and tried to work with people who led industry but when industry did not respond, people withheld their money and support in purchasing products that industry made and so was the beginning of the term boycott created – we called it selective patronage;
- From that point forward OICs were flourishing across the United States (1964); and in 1969 the City worked with black business people to send a delegation to Philadelphia and got permission from OICs of America to found the Rocky Mount OIC;
- The individuals who helped work with the founding of OIC also worked with moving this entire City forward;
- This year marks OIC's 50th anniversary and it was OIC who worked with the City of Rocky Mount to obtain the former Booker T. Washington High School complex so that the City could have ownership of that. The only way the City of Rocky Mount even owned the property was because the US Department of Education had a requirement for all those properties that were surplus (due to integration of black students to white schools leaving black schools vacant) and many of them fell to defunct;
- OIC occupied that space and in so doing the City was able to obtain a great opportunity to expand its parks and recreation program and the deal was that the City of Rocky Mount obtained the property and from that point forward it has been in productive use;
- It is interesting to note that OIC has also worked with every business and industry that has come to this City starting in the 1960s all the way to today to provide job training, programs and development. OIC works with almost every community organization that wants a place and a space without charging for community education and opportunity for enrichment;
- So when you talk about OIC you talk about relationships with City government; it is something that is documented and OIC is just continuing what was begun;
- This relates to improvements in that building per the agreement with OIC (which preceded him) that the City of Rocky Mount takes care of capital enhancements and improvements and OIC takes care of everything else on the inside as it relates to its programs and building efficacy. Major systems are the City's responsibility just like every other City building and the speaker was correct that the City does own the building at 402 E. Virginia Street; and it is correct that the OIC has a lease and that OIC keeps the building up well and provides access to the full community and works hard to make sure that everyone takes opportunity of that;
- Said OIC is celebrating its 50th year and is going to wrap up everything at the end of the year with a great program that will give its history;
- Said OIC's greatest cheerleader in this community was Mayor Fred Turnage which can be seen by the stock records;

- Said as far as wearing too many hats – no one has complained when he has served as board chair for their organizations making sure that their organizations were represented and given opportunity; and
- Said if anyone has any questions, he is happy to provide explanation and information that is accurate

Councilmember Knight made comments. A summary of the comments are as follows:

- The Cokey Road Building (current Judicial Center and old Mae Gorham School) has undergone upgrades and the roof has just been replaced which was quite expensive; and
- Said he wanted to show that the City invests in its buildings especially those older schools that have been turned over to the City

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney reported that improvements are continuing at the Judicial Center.

Councilmember Watkins noted that the Judicial Center is used by both Nash and Edgecombe County.

CLOSED SESSION (ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE)

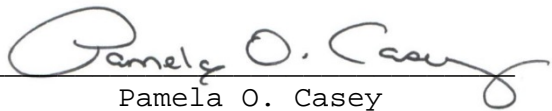
The City Manager requested a Closed Session to discuss a matter concerning personnel and a matter concerning attorney-client privilege.

The City Council requested a closed session regarding an additional personnel matter be added.

Motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the City Council go into a Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as **ESM-538** at the end of **Minute Book 36** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor convened the City in regular session at 6:20 p.m. and, there being no further business, the City Council meeting adjourned.



 Pamela O. Casey
 City Clerk