

January 13, 2020

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular session scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building with Mayor C. Saunders Roberson, Jr. presiding.

Councilmembers present: André D. Knight, Reuben C. Blackwell, IV, Richard Joyner, T. J. Walker, Lige Daughtridge, W. B. Bullock and Christine Carrol Miller.

Staff Present: Rochelle Small-Toney, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Natasha Hampton and Elton Daniels, Assistant City Managers; Dorothy Brown Smith, Chief Communications and Marketing Consultant; Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager; Chase Norwood, Management Analyst; David Griffin, Community Services Superintendent; Paula Carbone, Senior Internal Auditor; Brenton Bent, Director of Water Resources; Chris Beschler, Director of Energy Resources; Brad Kerr, Public Works Director; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Todd Gardner, Transit Administrator; Amy Staton, Finance Director; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; Darryl Strother, Electrical Distribution Superintendent; George Robinson, Police Chief; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Kevin Harris, Business Development Manager; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

The following members of the Police Department were also in attendance: Senior Police Officer, Cameron McFadden; Sergeant William Mayfield; Captain Michael Paul; Lieutenant Chris Ballard. A number of fire personnel were also in attendance including Michael Roupp, Interim Division Chief of Operations.

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and called on Councilmember Blackwell 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

The minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held December 9, 2019 were 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 rescheduled Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, December 9, 2019. The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF A REGULAR RESCHEDULED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 AT 6:30 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
 E. Lois Watkins
 W. B. Bullock
 Christine Carroll Miller
 Mayor David W. Combs

STAFF PRESENT:

Rochelle Small-Toney
 Pamela O. Casey
 Natasha Hampton
 Elton Daniels
 Ken Hunter
 Archie Jones
 Dorothy Brown Smith
 Elayne Henderson
 Chase Norwood
 Richard J. Rose

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., welcomed all present and called on City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney to introduce agenda items.

The City Manager recognized and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Rogers for his service as Mayor Pro Tem during the past year.

PEER REVIEW - Rochelle Small-Toney

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney noted at the last Committee of the Whole Meeting Council received a report and held a discussion relative to an existing conflict between the City Charter and the Personnel Ordinance relative to the Peer Review Panel. The City Council was provided with a draft of an Ordinance which would eliminate Peer Review Panel appeals for employees who have been recommended for dismissal and to maintain the choice of Peer Review Panel appeals for employees subject to disciplinary action other than a recommendation for dismissal. The Manager advised the Council that the current Peer Review Panel appeal process is in conflict with the Charter which provides for the final arbitrator relative to terminations to be the City Manager. She noted the amendment will keep the Peer Review Panel in place but limit the Panel's authority.

Discussion was held.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *Motion was made by Councilmember Watkins, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the amended Ordinance be recommended for approval.*

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST UPDATE - Richard J. Rose

City Attorney Richard J. Rose reported that the City's Technology Services Department is pulling together emails for Councilmembers' City e-mail accounts pursuant to a public records request which covers the period of time from October to January 2019. Mr. Rose suggested that Councilmembers review the e-mails and noted that he will also review the e-mails prior to providing response to the public records request. He stated if a Councilmember believes an e-mail is not subject to the request, they should notify him of such. He told the Council that the request also covers personal e-mail accounts if the e-mail is related to City business.

Mr. Rose advised that he hopes to provide a response to the request in about ten (10) days.

Dorothy Brown Smith, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Consultant, stated that she does not want the Council to think staff is not responding to public records requests because of a recent article in the Telegram.

The City Attorney noted that if a public records request requires substantial time and documentation it will require more response time.

Ms. Smith added that the City does not have a dedicated position assigned to respond to public records requests.

The City Attorney stated that a report/discussion relative to legal clarification as to compliance with public records requests will be on the agenda for the next Committee of the Whole.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that consideration of the Ordinance relative to the Peer Review Panel be tabled. This matter will be placed on the January 27, 2020 Council agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the December 9, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney reported that on Monday, January the 20th the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission will host the 32nd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast. She stated this event is a co-hosted event sponsored by North Carolina Wesleyan College and advised that the breakfast and program will take place at the Dunn Center for the Performing Arts and will kick off at 7:00 a.m. Events of the breakfast include: Keynote speaker, Anita Earls, who is an Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. She noted that Ms. Earls founded the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization, in 2007 and served as its Executive Director for 10 years. It was noted that while there, she litigated voting rights and other civil rights cases. The Manager advised that following the breakfast, volunteers will team together for the annual day of service projects and invited anyone interested in participating in the day of service to call 252-454-1682. Mrs. Small-Toney told those in attendance that all events are free and open to the public.

It was further announced that in conjunction with the City of Rocky Mount 32nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast celebration, the Maria V. Howard Art Center, located at 270 Gay Street, in the Imperial Centre for the Arts and Science will display "Where the Dream Began", which will highlight Dr. King's visit to Rocky Mount when he delivered part of his infamous "I Have a Dream" speech. Those present were advised that visits to the Art Center are

free and the Center operates Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The City Manager noted that beginning Saturday, January 25th, visitors will be able to explore the "Science of How Things Move by Land, Sea and Air" at the Children's Museum and Science Center, a new traveling exhibition. It was noted that the exhibit is in the Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences and will run through May 10.

Ms. Small-Toney added that The Maria V. Howard Art Center Spring 2020 exhibits are now open at the Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences and include the "Black Light Project" and "Willson's Markings of Wildness" a handcrafted jewelry exhibition.

The City Manager encouraged all to ensure their household, their neighbors' households and their community are counted in the 2020 census. She said the census will determine funding for housing programs, schools, hospitals, economic development and much more in our community. She added that confidential data can be submitted online at 2020.census.gov. and said that those who do not respond online will receive a paper application.

Ms. Small-Toney advised Phase I of the City's wayfinding project is well underway. She told those in attendance that this project is designed to assist both first-time visitors and residents in identifying places of interest. She noted signs can be found in many areas including the Atlantic 64 Interchange, various areas throughout Downtown and along the Downtown perimeter. She added that currently 22 vehicular wayfinding signs and 22 parking signs are already installed at a cost of \$186,000 and municipal identification signs for Holly Street Park, City Lake, Lancaster Park and Marigold Park are expected to be installed in March at a cost of \$22,200.

Attendees were advised that currently the final locations and content development for five pedestrian kiosks are in process with an anticipated late summer completion at a cost of \$27,000.

Ms. Small-Toney further reported that she has assembled a committee led by the Interim Communications and Marketing Director, Dorothy Brown Smith, to study and recommend to her staffing needs and the capital costs needs associated with televising City Council meetings. She added that she expects to have follow-up information to share with the Mayor and Council beginning in the February - March time frame.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Roberson announced that the Petitions from the Public portion of the meeting will be moved to the end of the agenda this evening.

PROCLAMATION - HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of January 2020 as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month and presented the Proclamation to Kenny Sumner from SAFE.

The Mayor and City Manager joined Mr. Sumner for a photograph.

100th YEAR ANNIVERSARY - ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

The Mayor presented a Proclamation congratulating the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Epsilon Gamma Zeta Chapter, on their 100th anniversary on January 16, 2020 to sorors. The Mayor and City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney joined the sorors present for a photograph.

AD VALOREM TAX RELEASES

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

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>NASH COUNTY</u>				
2019	19169	EVERETTE, DAVID L 225 PINTAIL LN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	98.98	CITY OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	98.98	

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	5212	BASHORE, THOMAS DW ON LEASELAND ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	458.00	CITY OWNER CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	458.00	
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>				
2019	1001257	BISHOP, STEPHEN FEREBEE JR 3409 WINSTEAD RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	210.49	CITY OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	210.49	
2019	10030	ROCKY MOUNT RECYCLERS INC BLDG ONLY ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	1,304.86	CITY VALUATION CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	1,304.86	
2019	1001079	RUFFIN, SHAVONDA LAVETT 632 CLAYTON ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803	110.70	CITY DUPLICATE BILL
		TOTAL RELEASE:	110.70	

2019	15380	UNIQUE HOTELS LLC 231 GATEWAY BLVD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	39,289.94 3,928.99	CITY PEN	VALUATION CORRECTION
		TOTAL Release:	43,218.93		
2019	10019	WARD, CHARLES TED & GARRY WARD 4601 COMMUNITY DR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	848.63	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	848.63		
2019	10029	WARD, CHARLES TED & GARRY K 816 S HALIFAX RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803	1,686.35	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	1,686.35		
2019	1001958	ZEIGER, ROGER LESTER JR 4507 LAUREL TRAIL RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	129.92	CITY	OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	129.92		

Councilmember Miller requested clarification relative to the property addresses listed on the tax releases. Finance Director Amy Staton advised that staff will work to clarify that the owner's address is inside the City, but the property may be located outside the City limits.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that the taxes releases be approved for release and/or refund.

FY 2020 LEASE FINANCING/REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION

The Council was advised that the City intends to enter into a lease financing arrangement for the following projects budgeted in FY 2020:

Replacement of Equipment - elevator replacement - City Hall; train station cooling tower; backhoe; sideloader; Vermeer vacuum unit; 50' fully hydraulic derrick; articulating telescopic aerial device; articulating telescopic aerial device with material handling; directional boring system; (2) two screw pumps at Hwy. 97 lift station; (2) two duplex screw pump control panels; electrical control cabinets - clarifiers; dump truck; and street sweeper - \$3,579,000

Councilmember Daughtridge questioned whether it is typical to finance equipment in advance and reimburse expenditures with lease financing.

The Council was advised lease financing is customary and the United States Treasury requires adoption in advance of a resolution declaring the City's intent to reimburse expenditures.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the following Resolution be adopted:

Resolution No. R-2020-1 entitled RESOLUTION DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES MADE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY/DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

The City Council was provided with a copy of a letter from the Mayor to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) advising the signature authority for HUD related CDBG and HOME documents requiring agency's name and title of certifying officers for such forms as grant agreements, vouchers and applications is delegated to the Mayor and City Manager as co-HUD certifying officers by the City Council and verifying that the Mayor or City Manager may independently sign documents without the other.

Councilmember Knight requested clarification and the City Manager noted this authority will allow her to sign documents in the Mayor's absence. She added that the document does not grant "blanket" signatory authority and that HUD documentation will continue to be approved by Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the Mayor be authorized to execute the letter to HUD on behalf of the City.

STATE MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SMAP)/TAR RIVER TRANSIT

Assistant City Manager Elton Daniels advised the City Council that each year the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) allocates funding for transit systems for system maintenance purposes. Council was advised that funds are awarded on the condition that the City's contribution to the transit operation will be equal or more than the City's contribution in FY 1993 and on the condition that funds will be spent by fiscal year end. Council was advised that the request for funding for 2020 is \$341,250.

It was explained that to receive these funds, the City is required to certify that it will comply with the conditions noted above and other standard requirements and the City Manager is required to submit a letter certifying the City will expend the FY 2020 allocation as of June 30, 2020.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the City Manager be authorized to execute a letter certifying that transit system funds will remain at a minimum of FY 1993 funding level and that all FY 2020 funds will expended by June 30, 2020; and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Certified Statement on behalf of the City.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NAMING THE SUNSET AVENUE/INTERSTATE 95 BRIDGE IN MEMORY OF OFFICER CHRISTOPHER J. DRIVER

The City Council was presented with a resolution supporting the naming of the Sunset Avenue/Interstate 95 Bridge in memory of Police Officer Christopher J. Driver. Council was advised that Officer Driver was an honorable and dedicated family man and served as a Rocky Mount Police Officer for five years and five months before he

was involved in a fatal accident on June 24, 2018 in the line-of-duty becoming the second line-of-duty death in the history of the Rocky Mount Police Department.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2020-2** entitled **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NAMING OF THE SUNSET AVENUE/INTERSTATED 95 BRIDGE IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER J. DRIVER** be adopted. This resolution will be forwarded to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for erection of the proper signage to read: "Officer Christopher J. Driver Memorial Bridge".

Those present stood to recognize the family of fallen Rocky Mount Police Officer Christopher J. Driver.

WEBSITE DOMAIN REGISTRATION RENEWAL

The City Council was advised that the City's domain website "rockymountnc.gov" will expire on January 31, 2020 unless renewed. It was recommended that the Council approve renewal of the website domain, used for the past 15 years, and authorize the Mayor to execute a letter to the domain registrar acknowledging said approval.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that Mayor Roberson be authorized to execute the letter authorizing the website domain registration renewal.

BIDS/HEAVY MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT

The City Council received a recommendation for the purchase of heavy motorized equipment to include: three (3) Altec Model Trucks: one (1) Altec 50' Fully Hydraulic Derrick; one (1) Altec Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device with Material Handling (Insulated); and one (1) Altec Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device (Insulated), through Sourcewell, formerly the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), a competitive group purchasing program which allows purchases to be made through competitive bidding and offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(3). Sourcewell advertised as required by law and bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-1**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Altec Industries, Inc. based on Sourcewell Contract #012418-ALT-Public Utility Equipment with related accessories and supplies at a total cost of \$652,505 and that City staff be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

BIDS/POLE INVENTORY AND INSPECTIONS

The City Council received the tabulation of bids received for pole inventory and inspection. Bids were received and opened on November 20, 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-2020-2**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsive responsible bidder, Utility Partners of America (UPA) at a total cost of \$195,375 (includes a base bid of \$167,625 and \$27,750 for alternates 12 and 13) and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

Councilmember Daughtridge noted in the past as a citizen he has been aware of bulk purchases of utility poles.

BIDS/BATTLE PARK MASTER SITE PLAN

The City Council was advised that proposals were received and opened on August 29, 2019 for the Battle Park Master Site Plan after all necessary legal procedures had been implemented and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-3**. Council was advised that the solicitation was also posted on the City's purchasing webpage and on the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System website.

Councilmember Miller questioned if Council will have the opportunity to see the plan and provide input and was advised Council will be able to provide input.

Councilmember Daughtridge stated that a Parks and Recreation study was done in 2015. He told those present that Ward 5 only has one park and only has that park because Bunn Farm was annexed into the City. He said that Ward 5 has a deficit compared to the rest of the City. He added that he thinks it is implied that Ward 5 and other Wards get a lot of things, but he does not think that is the case.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to CPL as the most qualified firm at a total cost of \$50,000 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City.

BIDS/CITY HALL ATRIUM AND STAFF ELEVATORS

The City Council was advised that proposals were received and opened on December 18, 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-2020-4**. Council was advised that the solicitation was also posted on the City's purchasing webpage and on the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System website.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsive responsible bidder, H.M. Kern at a total cost of \$768,000 including alternates and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City. Council was advised that the base bid includes the City Hall atrium elevator and staff elevator and the alternate bid includes the Police Department elevator. It was noted that H.M. Kern identified \$90,200 to Electrical Technologies, a MWBE electrical firm.

BIDS/RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - LANCASTER AND MARIGOLD PARKS

The City Council received a recommendation for the purchase of recreation and playground equipment for Lancaster and Marigold Parks through Sourcewell, formerly the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), a competitive group purchasing program which allows purchases to be made through competitive bidding and offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(3). Sourcewell advertised as required by law and bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-5**.

At the request of Councilmember Walker, Assistant City Manager Elton Daniels described some of the equipment chosen and reported that the community provided input in the selection of the equipment.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Sof Surfaces, Inc. at a total cost of \$108,000 based on Sourcewell Contract #030117-SFS and that City staff be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

APPOINTMENT (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

Councilmember Daughtridge nominated Janie Mac Pittman to fill the unexpired Ward 5 term on the Planning Board.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that Janie Mac Pittman be appointed to the Ward 5 vacancy on the Planning Board. This term will expire June 30, 2021.

Councilmember Miller noted she expects to make an appointment to the Workforce Housing Advisory Commission very soon.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to a question posed by Councilmember Knight, Mayor Roberson stated that the Public Petitions was moved to the end of the agenda for tonight's meeting due to the presentation of awards.

The Mayor outlined the guidelines for petitions from the public and opened the meeting for public petitions.

Mayor Roberson recognized the following individuals and a summary of comments is outlined below:

- **Tom Harris:**
 - Stated last month he talked briefly about the operations of the Event Center and said it was good to see some recent information in the newspaper;
 - Stated he would like to make some general information public and thanked the Finance Director and her staff for assistance;
 - Said page 15 of the audit mentions that the Rocky Mount Public Finance Corporation (the entity known as the Event Center) results are “blended” with the presentation within the full audit. He noted that for transparency and so the public will know how successful the Event Center is, the financial result should be segregated and not blended in future audit reports;
 - Noted the Event Center had an operating deficit, but the City has a \$2.7M debt service payment this year (\$1.45M principal and \$1.22M interest);
 - Said under expenses of the Event Center, \$1.392M of the \$2.134M was operating expenses; he stated it would be good to see a breakdown of the operating expenses
- **Dr. Kim E. Koo:**
 - Stated we live in a bigger world and should be aware of what is going on outside the City;
 - Spoke in opposition to war and said money spent on the military should be channeled for public services like education, healthcare, jobs, housing and unemployment benefits;
 - Said Rocky Mount should join with other cities against war
- **Samuel Battle:**
 - Voiced concern relative to gang violence;
 - Questioned how the City can consider moving forward with Downtown development with gang violence going on;
 - Said drugs like opioids and heroin are a problem in Rocky Mount;
 - Said the City did a fine job fixing up Holly Street Park, but it needs cameras
- **Johnny Cunningham:**
 - Said he would trade a park with Wards 5 and 7 because his Ward has only one bank and one grocery store and no YMCA;
 - Thanked the Council for their efforts to continue support of impoverished African-American neighborhoods;
 - Praised Councilman Joyner for the work he has done;
 - Told of volunteer work being doing in the community;
 - Said if that work continues sooner or later drugs, crime and violence will evaporate, and we will live in a safe environment
- **Morrie Minges:**
 - Asked what CIP stands for

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney responded that CIP stands for Capital Improvement Program.

- Said it is common courtesy to receive responses to questions asked at the Petitions from the Public portion of the meeting;
- Said she was excited to see an electronic sign against littering on Tom Betts Highway and asked who placed the sign; added she would like to see more progress against litter

Mayor Roberson reported that following the last meeting he attempted to follow up with some of the speakers, but phone numbers

were incorrect. He stated it is important that information provided be accurate.

Councilmember Miller advised that the no littering sign was put in place by NCDOT. She stated if someone is seen littering the public can write down their tag number and report it to KAB and that person will receive a letter from NCDOT.

- **Bronson Williams:**
 - Stated he recently had an opportunity to look at the City Charter, the Bible of the City;
 - Said that Sec. 2-29 outlines the rules of order of Council meetings and sets the tone for how the meetings are managed and governed adding that if the rules of order are to be changed there should be a vote by 5/7ths of the Council;
 - Said he recognizes the work done by the Council over the years and despite social media, articles in the newspaper and tv station discussion this Council has weathered the storm and made the City grow;
 - Said there is no doubt in his mind that new residents are moving here every year;
 - Said it is important that all 7 members of the Council take their jobs seriously and do what they were elected to do

- **Nathlyn Ohree:**
 - Said she has had on-the-job training on what happens in the City and though it was challenging, she learned a lot;
 - Said she has attended some community meetings and commended the presidents of the community organizations for their diligence in seeking community needs;
 - Said there is a lot of positive things going on in the City, but it takes time;
 - Applauded Council for the successes achieved;
 - Encouraged all to hold high their integrity and morality and to be consistent with the efforts to help the City;
 - Said she is proud of the work the Police does in her community

COMMENTS – W. B. BULLOCK

Councilmember Bullock thanked attendees for their presence. He said he attended a Fire Promotion Service last week and thanked and congratulated the Firemen who were being promoted. Said he wanted to take a moment to thank all full-time employees for their service.

He added that the City’s Fire Department is one of the best in the Southeast. Encouraged those present to thank the firemen for their service.

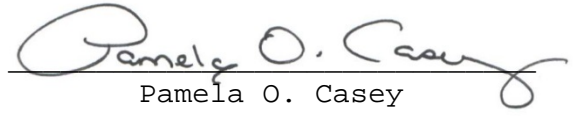
CLOSED SESSION (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The Mayor requested a Closed Session to continue discussion of a matter concerning attorney-client privilege.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 8:15 p.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as a part of **ESM-545** which originated in a Committee of the Whole just prior to the regular Council meeting and filed at the end of **Minute Book 37** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor convened the City in regular session at 9:11 p.m. and there being no further business for regular session, adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela O. Casey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk