

February 10, 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; Kim Batts, Acting City Clerk/Deputy 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; Chris Beschler, Director of Energy Resources; Brad Kerr, Public Works Director; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Michael Roupp, Division Chief; Tracey Drewery, Division Chief; Darvin Moore, Division Chief; Anthony Ladd, Senior Training Officer; Tyler Jenkins, Fire Engineer; John Miller, Captain; Ben Meeks, Firefighter, William Locke, Firefighter; Joel Dunn, Interim Parks and Recreation Director; Kevin Harris, Business Development Manager; Cornelia McGee, Community Development Administrator; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Kream Mosley, Administrative Assistant, City Clerk's Office; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order and called on Councilmember Walker 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 January 27, 2020 were approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

#### **COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney provided the following community update:

- Recognition of the work of City Council, Assistant City Managers, Department Directors, employees and staff
- Announced a mid-year review is now available on the City's website at rockymountnc.gov. which will contain information and cornerstone achievements from each department over the first six months of this fiscal year;
- Extended an invitation on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department for a public meeting concerning proposed renovations at

Battle Park scheduled for February 20 and 27 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and March 2 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Theatre Lobby at the Imperial Centre (for more information call 252-972-1151);

- The Annual International Festival of Cultures, hosted by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, will be held in the Brown Auditorium on the campus of Nash Community College. The free event will take place Saturday, March 2 from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and will showcase the variety of diverse communities that call Rocky Mount home. Vendor space is available. Contact the Human Relations Department at 252-972-1181 for more information;
- Reported that over the next several months she will talk a lot about the 2020 Census because the census will determine funding for housing programs, schools, hospitals, economic development and much more in our community. Approximately \$16M of the City's budget is the result of population numbers and this is why the count needs to be accurate and every individual residing in the City needs to be counted. On February 13 at 4:00 p.m. there will be a Neighborhood Presidents meeting in the Committee Room located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall. The Census representative Bernadette L. Richards, Partnership Specialist for the NC US Census, will provide Complete Count Committee (CCC) training for the neighborhood presidents/representatives and other community and church representatives. The Manager encouraged attendance to ensure all are counted in the 2020 Census. She reported that confidential data can be submitted online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov);
- The Black Light Project is now on display at the Imperial Centre. The project features 14 area black males in picture and narrative form. The idea of the project is to present black males in a positive manner while shifting the narratives that are often shared through media outlets. The project will also be displayed throughout the City beginning in April via a grant from the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation;
- A Proclamation recognizing the Centennial Celebration of the Negro National League Week will presented at noon on February 13 at the Imperial Centre near the Buck Leonard Exhibition; and
- The Human Relations Commission meeting will take place Wednesday, February 12 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1 located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall. For a complete list of upcoming meetings, dates and locations all were urged to visit the City's website at [rockymountnc.gov](https://rockymountnc.gov).

#### **RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS ACADEMY GRADUATES**

Mayor Roberson called on staff to introduce the Citizens Academy Graduates and give details about the program. Loretta Braswell presented the following information about the Citizens Academy program:

- The program is a great way to learn about your local government;
- Department Heads at the City give an overview of their departments and share information relative to their function in the City;
- The program is open to City Residents and City Employees;
- The program is one night a week for 11 weeks; and
- The current session begins March 5<sup>th</sup> and applications will be accepted until February 18, 2020

Ms. Braswell called on a recent graduate, Tonya Parker, to make a few comments. Ms. Parker stated this is an excellent program. She said she has lived in Rocky Mount her entire life and was surprised

at how much she learned during the program. She encouraged everyone to sign up. Ms. Braswell asked for the recent graduates to stand to be recognized and introduced them as follows: Joe Bell, Energy Resources Department; Katrese Hale, Community and Business Development Planning Specialist; Arthur Greene, Adell Greene, Cassandra Greene and Janice Gerald.

Ms. Braswell informed the citizens that she and the recent graduates would be downstairs to answer any questions and accept applications after the meeting.

#### **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

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

- ***Dr. Kim Koo:***
  - She is a member of the Rocky Mount Racial Justice Group
  - Stated she had spoken with several individuals in the Police Department and it appears crime is down in Rocky Mount and feels others would benefit from this information
  - She is petitioning for the Police Chief to be able to speak on this issue at a future City Council Meeting
  - She would like the information to be categorized by type of crime, age of offender and the areas of the City where the crimes are clustered
- ***Curmilus Dancy:***
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Rocky Mount NAACP
  - He was appointed to the Human Relations Commission and when the issue is resolved he will be replaced
  - Would like an update on the removal of the Confederate Monument
- ***Johnny Cunningham:***
  - Stated crime is not the issue in his community
  - The citizens in his community along with the Police department cleaned up the crime in his community because they saw the value in their community
  - Stated the Bassett Center is governed by an all-white board and that the programs that are supposed be funded are not in place
- ***Samuel Battle:***
  - Friend was shot in drive-by today
  - Stated this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> drive-by shooting in 3 weeks
  - Stated that there were several unsolved murders from drive-by shootings
  - Feels nothing is being done to curtail crime
- ***Kiyah Darden:***
  - Stated she wanted to use her 3 minutes to bring awareness to the racist group on Facebook portraying themselves to be concerned citizens
  - Underlying divide between different races that has grown significantly since the election of our current President – not only in our City but all over the country
  - Concerned this division could result in re-segregation
  - Stated that she read the article about Blanches Bistro and does not see how it should be an issue because she never heard any concerns when references were made to Chinatown
  - Stated she agrees with the comment that pro-black does not mean anti-white and that there are black business districts all over the country

- Downtown is developing and she is pleased to be a part of recognizing the great things that are in store for all people
- **Nathlyn Ohree:**
  - Appreciates the Mayor calling her as she had requested
  - She is still concerned about the children of Rocky Mount and the school system they attend
  - Asked Council to please help with accountability and transparency regarding the future of our children
  - Stated the children of Rocky Mount do not need to be divided into Nash and Edgecombe counties
- **Morrie Minges:**
  - Asked if money that was going to be used for parking deck could be used for filling potholes and roadwork that she read about in the paper
  - Stated that she read somewhere that since there were not enough parking spaces around the Event Center that buses could shuttle people and that sounds like it would be less money
  - Asked why there were not neighborhood watch groups for litter
  - Requested the monument be left alone

#### CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. FY 2019-2020 ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:(recommended for adoption)

##### Budget:

- 1) Electric: Ordinance No. O-2020-2 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MUTUAL AID** (appropriates funds for reimbursement of expenses for mutual aid provided to Elizabeth City in the fall of 2019 relative to Hurricane Dorian, increases the overtime budget for the current year and offsets mutual aid costs - \$24,327);
- 2) Trust (Canteen) fund: Ordinance No. O-2020-3 entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FOR INCREASES TO TRUST FUND ACCOUNT** (appropriates revenues not derived from City taxes and fees (i.e. vending machines and special programs - \$202,720)

##### Project:

- 3) **Ordinance No. O-2020-4** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTERS GRANT** (appropriates additional grant funds from the Assistance for Firefighters Grant to the Public Safety Grants Fund - \$15,410

#### B. TEMPORARY STREET CLOSING (recommended for approval):

- Request from Anne Craig on behalf of Station Square for permission to close Nash Street (block between Church and Main Street) from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2020 for the Station Square Spring Affair Event [rain date of May 16, 2020]

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the Consent Agenda be approved inclusive of adoption of the Ordinances contained therein and approval of the temporary street closing.

**ANNEXATION NO. 315 - 2014 OLD MILL ROAD**

The Mayor recognized City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney to explain the feasibility study prepared in connection with the annexation by the Department of Planning and Development. The City Manager called on the Director of the Department of Development Services Will Deaton. Mr. Deaton explained the report and concluded by recommending approval of the annexation. A copy of the report is on file in Annexation No. 315 in the office of the City Clerk.

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to Annexation No. 315 and no one appeared. The Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that receipt of the feasibility study be acknowledged and that **Ordinance No. O-2020-5** entitled **ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT/ANNEXATION NO. 315 - 2014 OLD MILL ROAD** be adopted.

**CODE AMENDMENT/PUBLIC NUISANCES**

The City Council was provided with an amendment to Chapter 10 of the City Code entitled "Health, Sanitation and Nuisances", Article III, Division 3 as follows:

- Sec. 10-91 - removes the following text in subparagraph 4 - "intended to be occupied for human habitation, whether temporarily or permanently"; and
- Sec. 10-92 - replaces "Director of Public Works" with "Director of Development Services"

The Director of Development Services, Will Deaton, explained the amendment and provided clarification, as requested.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. **O-2020-6** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT ENTITLED "HEALTH, SANITATION AND NUISANCES"** be adopted.

**TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

The City Council received the following recommendation from the Traffic Engineer:

**ADOPT:**

- a) No parking anytime on both sides of Roundtree Drive from Goldrock Road westward to Hornbeam Drive; and
- b) No parking anytime on both sides of Roundtree Drive from Brentwood Drive eastward for 330 feet

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. **O-2020-7** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDINANCE MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

**MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/REIMBURSEMENT FOR CURB AND GUTTER REPLACEMENT**

The City Council was with a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the City's

reimbursement from NCDOT of \$25,000 relative to curb and gutter replacement at the intersection of Falls Road and Church Street (near the Imperial Centre).

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the municipal agreement (**C-2020-1**) with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (WBS Element: 4CR.20641.23) be approved and that the Mayor, Finance Director and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

**BIDS/POLICE VEHICLES**

The City Council received a recommendation for the purchase of Police vehicles via the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association (NCSA) Group Purchasing Program Bid #19-05-0911R as follows:

- a. Four (4) 2020 Chevrolet Tahoes 1500 Appalachia vehicles - award to Parks Chevrolet, Inc @ a cost of \$32,435 per vehicle for total cost of \$129,740; and
- b. Eight (8) 2020 Ford Police Interceptors Utility AWD Longleaf Pine vehicles - award to Performance Ford, Inc. @ per vehicle cost of \$34,349.90 for a total cost of \$274,799.20

The City Council was advised that the NCSA is a group purchasing program that serves government agencies nationally through competitively bid and awarded contract purchasing solutions pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(3). Bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-6**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to as recommended and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the vehicles in accordance with the Council's award.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING/CANCELLATION**

Consideration was given by the City Council to rescheduling or canceling the March 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole and Regular Scheduled City Council meetings due to a conflict with the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.

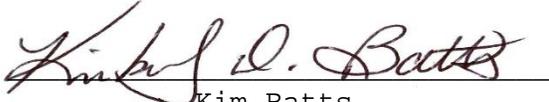
Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the March 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole and Regular Scheduled City Council meetings be canceled.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Consideration of appointments to the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees was removed from the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Mayor adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:49 p.m.

  
Kim Batts

Acting City Clerk/Deputy Clerk