

February 24, 2020

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 C. Saunders "Sandy" Roberson, Jr. presiding.

Councilmembers present: André D. Knight, Reuben C. Blackwell, IV*, Richard Joyner, T. J. Walker, Lige Daughtridge, W. B. Bullock and Christine Carroll 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; Chris Beschler, Director of Energy Resources; Brad Kerr, Public Works Director; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Amy Staton, Finance Director; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; George Robinson, Police Chief; James Staton, Police Lieutenant; DeNaide Dickens; Interim Director of Human Resources; Joel Dunn, Interim Parks and Recreation Director; David Griffin, Community Services Superintendent; Bradley Walters, Gas Distribution Manager; Cynthia Jones, Director of Community and Business Development; Paula Carbone, Senior Internal Auditor; Jim Connolly, Water Treatment Superintendent; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Michael Roupp, Interim Division Chief of Operations; Tracey Drewery, Division Chief; Anthony Ladd, Interim Battalion Chief of Training; Kevin Harris, Business Development Manager; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; 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 Joyner 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 Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held February 10, 2020 be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

The City Council received the minutes and recommendations from a regular scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting held Monday, February 10, 2020. The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE FREDERICK E. TURNAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

André D Knight, Mayor Pro Tem
 Reuben C. Blackwell, IV
 Richard Joyner
 T. J. Walker*
 Lige Daughtridge
 W. B. Bullock
 Christine Carroll Miller
 Mayor C. Saunders Roberson, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Carolinas Gateway Partnership:
 Brad Hufford
 Oppie Jordan

STAFF PRESENT:

Rochelle Small-Toney
 Kim Batts
 Natasha Hampton
 Elton Daniels
 Ken Hunter
 Amy Staton
 Dorothy Brown Smith
 Brad Kerr
 Chase Norwood
 Tim Farmer
 Archie Jones
 Richard J. Rose

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem André D Knight called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and welcomed all present. He called on Assistant City Manager Natasha Hampton to present the first agenda item.

ARMOROCK BUILDING REUSE PROJECT: *Natasha Hampton*

Assistant City Manager Natasha Hampton informed Mayor and Council that Armorock is the world's largest producer of corrosion-proof polymer concrete structures. She stated their structures are often used for sewer structures, swimming pools and drainage channels. Assistant City Manager Hampton stated since Armorock's products are currently sold in North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and Florida and are manufactured out of Sulphur Springs, Texas, they recognized the need to have a base for operations on the east coast. Assistant City Manager Hampton presented information relative to the scope of the project as follows:

- Armorock has purchased a building located at 133 Hawaiian Drive;
- building modifications needed to allow for sufficient workspace;
- HVAC and electrical modifications are needed;
- investment of anticipated costs of \$2.3 million dollars for modifications and improvements is anticipated; and
- approximately 41 new full-time jobs are expected to be created

Match Requirements

- total grant amount is \$300,000;
- match required is 5% of total grant amount - \$15,000;
- Carolinas Gateway Partnership and City of Rocky Mount will share match cost; and
- City's cost share of grant match is \$7,500
 - o Funding is available using Economic Development account number 11086191-439600

Next Steps

- Council authorization for City Manager to place item for approval of resolution on February 24, 2020 agenda;
- Authorize City Manager to execute grant agreement; and
- Execute contract grant agreement when received

Discussion was held relative to confirmation of signatory authority. Mayor Pro Tem Knight confirmed with the City Manager that the appropriate individual would be requested to execute documents.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. By consensus, the Council authorized the resolution to be placed on the February 24, 2020 City Council Agenda.

SECOND QUARTER FY 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT/REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES: Ken Hunter

The Mayor Pro Tem called on Budget Manager Kenneth Hunter to present the Fiscal Year 2020 Second Quarter Financial Report.

Mr. Hunter provided the Council with a report of revenues and expenditures for government funds and reported:

- Overall financial activity for the City during the Second Quarter of FY 2020 continued to improve compared to prior years;
- The General Fund revenues from property tax, sales tax, solid waste operations and investments are continuing to grow;
- The Powell Bill allocation is 0.7% below the FY 2019 allocation and 4.8% lower than the FY 2020 adopted projection;
- Electric sales and overall expenditures are consistent with last year;
- Gas sales have declined compared to last year due to the warmer weather, but this is offset by decreased wholesale gas prices;
- Water sales are ahead of FY 2019 and consistent with budgeted forecasts;
- Sewer sales continue to perform below budget 2020 due to dry weather and reduced sales to wholesale and industrial customers;
- Both water and sewer funds are active with capital projects which are planned expenditures reflecting essential improvements; and
- Stormwater revenues have increased compared to last year due to development activity

The Budget and Evaluation Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the following:

- Overview:
 - General review of revenues and expenditures:
 - Continued ad valorem and sales tax growth;
 - Reflects operations of Event Center;
 - Overall expenditures less than last year; and
 - Do not anticipate using adopted Appropriated Fund Balance

Mr. Hunter concluded his presentation by reporting there is optimism about the growth that is being seen. We are now in the second quarter, which puts staff in a position to start projecting where the City is going to be at the end of the year as well as starting the projections for upcoming fiscal years. These projections are key to development of the budget and preparation of the CIP.

Council was provided with graphs outlining recent labor force and employment information. Mr. Hunter reported that overall employment growth in the City has been good.

Mr. Hunter provided Council with information requested in reference to employment by zip code and Ward.

Discussion ensued. Councilmember Miller asked if the education level of the different groups could be obtained and Mr. Hunter stated that it could. Councilmember Joyner asked if data could be obtained about services the different areas have received such as home ownership, equity and access. Mr. Hunter stated he could look into other demographic factors such as those. The City Manager confirmed with Council the information that was being requested as education levels, home ownership services and other community resource services.

Councilmember Blackwell stated he realized broadening the perspective of how to evaluate the social determinants of health will not be an easy task but added he feels it will be worth the investment.

Mr. Hunter stated he will investigate to see what additional data is available.

Mr. Hunter presented information relative to local average wages by sector and stated the average is \$19.28 per hour. Councilmember Blackwell asked if there is any comparative data and Mr. Hunter responded by saying that information can be obtained.

Mayor Pro Tem Knight stated Council has been asked to look at a living wage opposed to the current wages the City is paying employees.

City Manager Small-Toney reminded Council that there is a pay study underway and that preliminary work shows the livable wage to be around \$16.00 per hour. She stated this amount only reflects the budgetary impact and does not represent the full cost. She stated staff is waiting for the study to come back so it can be shared with Council because Council direction will be needed as to whether they would like to see the pay at market or just above market. She said she expects the study to come back around March or April but does not think the study will be back for Council to review at the retreat. She suggested a Committee of the Whole meeting may need to be devoted to review of the study once it is complete.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *Information only; no formal action.*

ALEXANDER EVANS FIELD OPERATIONS COMPLEX DEDICATION: *Brad Kerr*

Public Works Director Brad Kerr presented the proposed design for the Municipal ID signs dedicating the Field Operations Center on Albemarle Avenue as the "Alexander Evans Field Operations Complex" and the proposed design for a dedication plaque to be placed at the Environmental Services Building located at 1221 Thorpe Road. He stated the time frame suggested is to have the dedication during Public Works Week which is May 17-23, 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Knight asked if the plaque can be placed on the outside of the Operations Center on Albemarle since, other than the train station, most City building are not open to the public 24 hours a day. Mr. Kerr stated that can be done but the thought has been that the lobby at Environmental Services receive citizens throughout the day and is the location where sanitation workers are now located.

Councilmember Blackwell agreed that is logical but asked if a plaque can be placed at both locations as a part of building the movement for heritage tourism adding that area was a hub of civil rights activity and movement. Mr. Kerr stated it can be investigated.

Discussion was held relative to the information being included in kiosks associated with the wayfinding project.

*Councilmember Walker left meeting (5:37 p.m.)

City Manager Small-Toney confirmed with Council that the consensus is to move forward with the signs, plaque(s) and dedication during the time frame suggested and come back to Council with what the kiosk signs will look like.

Councilmember Daughtridge requested a brief description of the wayfinding project since he is new on council. City Manager Small-Toney stated she will ensure he receives information on the project.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *By consensus, the Council approved moving forward with the signs, plaque and dedication during the time frame suggested and to have information presented relative to the appearance of the kiosk signs at a later date.*

CLOSED SESSION

The Mayor Pro Tem requested a closed session to discuss a matter concerning attorney-client privilege/economic development.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 5:50 p.m.*

The minutes of the Closed Session (attorney-client privilege/real estate) shall be placed on file as **ESM-547** at the end of **Minute Book 37** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION. *The City Council returned to Open Session at 6:55 p.m.*

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that Item 15 be removed from the City Council Regular Meeting Agenda.*

2020 CENSUS

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney informed Council of her decision to have former Councilmember Lois Watkins serve as a Census Coordinator during the 2020 census process. She reiterated the importance of an accurate census count and the effects the count has on funding received by the City. She stated she has confirmed with the City Attorney that it will not be a conflict of interest to hire Ms. Watkins in this position. City Manager Small-Toney also stated she intends to hire two (2) census advocates, one of which will be bilingual, to assist with ensuring an accurate census count.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *Information only; no formal action.*

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURN. By consensus the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

A printed copy of the PowerPoint presentations are on file in the office of the City Clerk

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

COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER

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

- Due to inclement weather the first of the three public meetings concerning the proposed renovations at Battle Park was canceled. There is still time to give your input at two of the upcoming scheduled meetings, which are being extended by thirty minutes. One meeting will be held on February 27 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and another on March 2 from 10:00 p.m. until noon. All meetings will be held in the Theatre Lobby at the Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences located at 270 Gay Street.

These meetings are not related to the Community Conversations meetings regarding the confederate monument held in 2018 by the City's Human Relations Department, as Battle Park sits on an independent parcel of land separate from the monument. The Battle Park Master Plan Process public input meetings will allow citizens to engage in two-way conversation and planning with the City's Parks and Recreation staff to assist in developing the Battle Park master planning process. Once the Plan is developed, the City of

Rocky Mount intends to utilize the resulting planning document to apply for numerous grants, including Federal grants. For more information, call 252-972-1151.

- The City's Parks and Recreation League basketball playoffs have tipped off this evening at the Rocky Mount Event Center. Age groups include 8-under, 10-under, 12-under and 15-under. Championship games will be played at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 27 in each age group. We encourage you to come out and support our area youth and coaches who have put a tremendous amount of time and effort into these events.
- Talk and Draw will also be held this Thursday, February 27 at 12:00 in the Arts Education Building at the Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences. Participants attending the event will be able to connect with local artists. Admission is free, so bring your lunch and your creativity.
- The City's Parks and Recreation Department will host its 2020 Job Fair on March 2 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Booker T. Washington Community Center gymnasium. Representatives from more than 20 local companies will be on hand to talk with prospective employees.
- An all-local production of Young Frankenstein will be held during a pair of weekends in March at the Imperial Centre. Performances will run March 6-7 and 13-14 at 7:30 p.m. Matinees will be held at 2 p.m. on March 8 and March 15. Tickets are \$11 for general admission, \$9 for seniors and students and \$7 for children 12 and under. Young Frankenstein is a comedy based on the Mel Brooks musical.
- She encouraged all to ensure their household, their neighbors' household and their community are counted in the 2020 Census adding that the census will determine funding for housing programs, schools, hospitals, economic development and much more in our community. She reported that confidential data can be submitted online at 2020census.gov.
- She noted that she believes City of Rocky Mount employees are unmatched in their daily commitment to their jobs and the service of our citizens and added she is launching a City Manager's Awards Program which will bring to the forefront some of the outstanding work done by city employees. Nominations may be submitted by an employee or citizen on-line via rockymountnc.gov, via email to jessie.nunery@rockymountnc.gov, and drop boxes at various city facilities. Nominations should include a detailed and accurate account about what makes their nominee outstanding and how that employee exhibits the city's core values. Nomination forms are available at city facilities and in the Council Chamber during City Council meetings.

Ms. Small-Toney introduced Cynthia Jones the City's new Community and Business Development Director.

Councilmember Knight stated that the Battle Park Master Plan cannot be separate from the monument. He noted the monument is situate on the original property. Mr. Knight added there has been an effort to avoid discussion of the confederate monument, but it is time to revisit the discussion.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Roberson recognized Jim Martin, a member of the Nash Community College Board of Trustees. Mr. Martin introduced Dr. Lew Hunnicutt, President of Nash Community College. Mr. Hunnicutt made remarks and invited the Mayor and Councilmembers to visit the college. *Councilmember Blackwell arrived.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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:

- ***Leon Henderson:***
 - Reiterated request for the City to move forward with installation of red-light cameras at intersections with high rates of accidents and provided a timeline of his efforts towards this initiative
- ***Gwen Wilkins:***
 - Voiced appreciation for the effort made to fill N.A.A.C.P. seat on the Human Relations Commission with a City resident;
 - Thanked Councilmember Walker for following up on repairs to the South Rocky Mount Community Center
- ***Arnold Gordon-Bray:***
 - Advised the Mayor and Council that a Christian Park, sponsored by the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, is being constructed on the east end of Virginia Street and will be named the Alpha and Omega Passions Park
- ***Gloria Davis:***
 - Requested enforcement of the Ordinance to prevent tractor trailer trucks from parking on the street in residential neighborhoods;
 - Stated she would also like to see the removal of deteriorated cars that are parked in yards;
 - Asked for assurance that loose dogs in neighborhoods are being monitored
- ***Johnny Cunningham:***
 - Expressed a concern that he feels Nash County non-profits are taking resources from Edgecombe County;
 - Voiced displeasure that Peacemakers has relocated to the Mills and has moved from a location where they were needed most by children
- ***Adrienne Copland:***
 - Reiterated a request for the City to initiate foreclosures for delinquent taxes;
 - Provided a spreadsheet to Mayor and Council with research she has performed relative to delinquent taxes in historic districts in Rocky Mount
- ***Warren Daughtridge:***
 - Reiterated his desire to make a meaningful, positive impact on the community and said he would like to see people find a common denominator to enable meaningful conversations;
 - Stated his group would like to work together with Mayor and Council to make positive things happen

- ***Morrie Minges:***
 - Stated she would like to see code enforcement relative to the former Ebony and Ivory building because it is extremely deteriorated;
 - Questioned if there are neighborhood anti-litter groups
 - Encouraged people not to litter and said if someone sees someone throwing litter from a car, they should get the license plate and report it to the Police
- ***Kiyah Darden:***
 - Stated she feels only two Councilmembers are mentioned constantly
 - Commended Councilmembers Knight and Blackwell on their integrity, leadership and character
 - Announced on April 10, 2020 she and some other youth will be hosting their very first Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Lancaster Park in the Hillsdale Community - all activities will be open to the public
- ***Landia Williams:***
 - Requested assistance from Council to have the Rocky Mount Housing Authority deal with a severe bed bug issue at the Rocky Mount Armstrong Apartments
- ***Curmilus Dancy:***
 - Stated he actively represented the N.A.A.C.P. during his appointment to the Human Relations Commission
 - Said he would like to see something done about the confederate monument
 - Said he feels the City should do a study on the effectiveness of broadcasting the City Council Meetings because he feels most people only come speak to see themselves on television
- ***Darlene Spencer-Harris:***
 - Welcomed Blanche's Bistro to the Downtown
 - Pointed out that businesses such as Prime Smokehouse, Cool Geeks, Salvation Army and Peacemakers that received their start in Edgecombe County but have relocated to Nash County leave voids that will need to be filled
 - Stated there is a pole that fell on one of her driveways on Arlington Street that she would like to see addressed and added that the pole does not belong to the City
- ***Nathlyn Ohree:***
 - Questioned the City's position on the Counties' plans to divide schools by County line;
 - Reiterated concerns about the effects the planned division of schools will have on the children who live in Rocky Mount
 - Said she would like to see the City take a proactive stance to protect the citizens' interests relative to schools

Councilmember Joyner reported that there is a meeting tonight between the Edgecombe County Commissioners and the Edgecombe County Board of Education.

Councilmember Blackwell provided background information and reminded all that it was the Rocky Mount City Council that took an aggressive stance to maintain the City's relationship with the Nash-Rocky Mount and Edgecombe County schools and contributed to a service fee for Edgecombe County students. He stated it was Nash County that insisted that the City had no right to make the contributions and that there is now law that prevents Rocky Mount from participating.

Councilmember Daughtridge inquired how the City follows up on concerns voiced by the public and was advised by the City Manager that

items are tracked and assigned to the appropriate staff member for follow up.

Councilmember Daughtridge requested that the matters of red-light cameras and delinquent taxes be investigated.

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney responded that she has requested Assistant City Manager Elton Daniels to work with the City Attorney's office relative to the matter of the red-light camera program and indicated that enabling legislation will be needed. She stated it is her hope that discussion can be held in April with Council so that staff can receive direction.

Ms. Small-Toney reported that she has requested Assistant City Manager Natasha Hampton and Community and Business Development Director Cynthia Jones to work with the Finance Department to look at establishing a program to draft third party agreements in an effort to collect delinquent taxes. She stated she hopes to establish an aggressive program. She added she is not sure if land banks are available in North Carolina, but the concern will be looked into holistically.

Councilmember Blackwell recognized and appreciated Ms. Copland for her research about foreclosure and code enforcement. He said this Council had some time ago made a recommendation to place a hold on demolition due to the value of historic properties and said the City should look for opportunities to be creative to build communities back and invite new people and encourage those currently here to remain. He stated he appreciates the energy Ms. Copland has brought to this matter. He added that a request for detailed information has been made and he expects Council to receive that information along with strategies for implementation.

Councilmember Miller stated this matter has been an ongoing concern and she has made comments relative to the matter many times. She said the time for concern and action is when properties first begin to deteriorate.

Councilmember Knight noted the presence of a neighborhood president from his Ward and requested staff provide an update to Ms. Cutler and Ms. Evans relative to commercial property on Leggett Road.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The City Council received the following schedules 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>EDGECOMBE COUNTY</u>				
2019	279	REVIS, WILLIAM LEE REVIS, NICOLE P 845 GREEN PASTURE RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	9.04 .90 .27	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	10.21	
2018	226	WEEKS, RANDALL SCOTT JR 3010 LEWY LN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	38.63 3.86 4.99	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	47.48	
2019	101	WEEKS, RANDALL SCOTT JR 3010 LEWY LN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	36.31 3.63 1.10	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	41.04	

NASH COUNTY

2019	1000018	AGAINST THE STIGMA CONSULTING ATTN: EVANA RIVERA 2054334 KILDAIRE FARM RD CARY, NC 27518	9.66 .97 .30	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	10.93	
2019	1001961	BOYS AND GIRLS OF NASH/EDGECOMBE COUNTIES 301 S CHURCH ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	5.14 1.50 .18	CITY SPEC INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	6.82	
2019	3299	OUTLAW, DANNY L & DEBRA W 513 S CHURCH ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803	82.27 2.26	CITY INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	84.53	

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

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>				
2019	3300	OUTLAW, DANNY L & DEBRA W SAMMY’S BODY SHOP 501 S CHURCH ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803	323.80 8.90	CITY INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	332.70	

B. TEMPORARY STREET CLOSING (recommended for approval):

- Request from Halo Hands Foundation for permission to close Beaman Street (block between Raleigh Boulevard and New Street) from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2020 for a Family Appreciation Day

C. TAXICAB/LICENSE RENEWALS (recommended for approval):

The City Council received recommendations from Chief of Police George Robinson for the annual renewal of taxicab licenses as follows:

- Mable R. Page Rocky Mount Cab Company #5
- Kendrick P. Scott Rocky Mount Cab Company #25

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the Consent Agenda be approved inclusive of approval of the tax releases, street closing and taxi rights renewals.

BUILDING REUSE GRANT/ARMOROCK

The City Council was provided with a grant application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce for funding (\$300,000) through the Rural Building Reuse Program for the Armorock Building Reuse Project at 133 Blue Hawaiian Drive. It was noted that the City and the Carolinas Gateway Partnership will arrange for a local cash match of at least 5% of the grant request (\$15,000). The City's share of the grant match was outlined as \$7,500. The City Council was advised that the project is expected to result in approximately 41 new full-time jobs.

The City Council was provided with an amended Authorizing Resolution and the City Attorney advised the Council that payment of the match will come at a later date and will not be appreciated until after the City receives notice of award of the grant and until such time as the City gives notice of and holds a public hearing

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the grant application be approved; that the Mayor be authorized to execute the grant application on behalf of the City; that staff be authorized to submit the grant application to the Rural Center; and that Resolution No. **R-2020-3** entitled **AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING REUSE PROGRAM - ARMOROCK BUILDING REUSE PROJECT** be adopted.

DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

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

- a. 502 Clyde Street
- b. 1229 Hill Street
- c. 1014 Arlington Street
- d. 811 Clark Street
- e. 200 S. Howell Street

Motion was made by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried to approve the demolition ordinance.

Councilmember Daughtridge amended the motion to defer consideration as to 502 Clyde Street, 1229 Hill Street, 1014 Arlington Street and 811 Clark Street until the March 23, 2020 meeting of the City Council and

that **Ordinance No. O-2020-8** entitled **ORDINANCE ORDERING THE COMMUNITY CODE INSPECTOR TO PROCEED TO DEMOLISH A CERTAIN DILAPIDATED STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO THE HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried. This Ordinance approves the demolition of 200 S. Howell Street.

AUDIT CONTRACT

The City Council received a proposal from Martin Starnes & Associates to perform the Fiscal Year 2020 audit for a cost of \$56,500, a 2.7% increase of \$1,500 from the prior year. The City Council was advised that the firm has performed the independent audit for the past thirteen (13) years and has provided excellent service both during the audit engagement and during the year as assistance is required related to financial matters.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the proposal of Martin Starnes & Associates be accepted and that the Mayor and Director of Finance be authorized to execute the audit contract (**C-2020-2**) on behalf of the City.

PARKS AND RECREATION GRANT PRE-APPLICATION/2020 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The City Council was provided with a grant pre-application to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation for a Recreational Trails Program grant in the amount of \$100,000 for a multi-use, natural surface trail within Battle Park. City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney responded to questions from Councilmember Miller by advising that the plans will provide greater access to the park while remaining environmentally sensitive to the path. The Council was advised that the grant requires a minimum 25% local match (\$25,000).

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the grant pre-application, including matching grant, be approved; that staff be authorized to submit the pre-application on-line to the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation; and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the required documentation and certificates, including subsequent grant application and agreement on behalf of the City.

PROPERTY DISPOSITION/1110 SYCAMORE STREET

The City Council was advised that an offer of \$3,000 has been received from Olga Korol for the purchase of vacant land gifted to the City in 2002 at 1110 Sycamore Street (PIN #376916141300). The tax value of the land was reported to be \$9,360 and it was noted that the City has no future need of this property. Council was further advised that the property is adjacent to Ms. Korol's residence.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2020-**

4 entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF AN OFFER TO PURCHASE CERTAIN PROPERTY** be adopted. This resolution declares the property surplus and authorizes the City Clerk to advertise the offer for upset bids pursuant to GS 160A-269.

MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT/UTILITY CONSTRUCTION PLANS

The City Council was provided with a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the City's reimbursement to NCDOT for 50% of construction costs (\$767,867.94) for the adjustment and relocation of City-owned water infrastructure necessary for the North Old Carriage Road widening.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the municipal agreement (**C-2020-3**) with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (WBS Elements: 47133.3.1) be approved and that the Mayor, Finance Director and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

BIDS/ELECTRIC TRANSFORMERS

The City Council received the tabulation of bids received for electric transformers 2500kva. Bids were received and opened on January 9, 2020 after all necessary legal procedures had been implemented and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-7**. 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 Knight and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Anixter Power Solutions, as the lowest responsive responsible bidder, at a total cost of \$138,029.80 and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

BIDS/TRAIN STATION COOLING TOWER REPLACEMENT

The City Council was advised that proposals were received and opened on January 17, 2020 for 320-131219CK train station cooling tower replacement after all necessary legal procedures had been implemented and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-8**. 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 Knight and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Eastbound Mechanical, LLC at a total cost of \$207,048 (base bid plus alternates) and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City.

BIDS/RESIDENTIAL GAS METERS

The City Council received a recommendation for the purchase of residential gas meters, 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-2020-9**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Elster American Meter Company, LLC at an estimated cost of \$112,150 (1,250 gas meters at \$89.72 each) and that City staff be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

BIDS/POURING RIGHTS

The City Council was advised that proposals were received and opened on December 19, 2019 for pouring rights after all necessary legal procedures had been implemented and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-10**. Council was advised that the solicitation was also posted on the City's purchasing webpage and on the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System website.

The City Manager called on Finance Director Amy Staton to respond to questions from Council. Ms. Staton explained the bid process which was followed by Council discussion.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the bid for pouring rights be awarded to Pepsi Bottling Venture, LLC in the amount of \$29,512 for Parks and Recreation and \$39,834 for the Event Center estimated as \$346,730 over a five-year term and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City.

APPOINTMENTS

Councilmember Joyner nominated Darlene Spencer-Harris to fill the Ward 3 vacancy on the Community Appeals Board. This unexpired term will expire June 30, 2021.

Councilmember Knight nominated Reuben Cooper Blackwell V (Cooper) to serve as the N.A.A.C.P. appointee to the Human Relations Commission. This unexpired term, previously held by Curmilus Dancy, II, will expire June 30, 2021. Councilmember Knight thanked Mr. Dancy for his service.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried to approve the nominations for appointments.

No action was taken to fill the remaining vacancies.

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Manager announced that the City Council's annual Retreat is planned for March 25-27, 2020 in Durham, North Carolina. It was noted that arrangements are ongoing, and the exact location of the Retreat is yet to be determined.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that retreat be scheduled as planned.

TEMPORARY STREET CLOSING (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Council received a request from Steve Yetman, City Engineer, for temporary street closing for the St. Patrick's Day Bar Crawl (*ordinance adoption requirement of NCDOT standards*):

Along Tarboro Street (US 64 Business East) from SE Main Street to Washington Street, from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2020

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried that the temporary street closing be approved and that **Ordinance No. O-2020-9** entitled **ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT DECLARING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY BAR CRAWL** be adopted.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Walker showed the Council and those in attendance a card recently presented to him by the Nash County Special Olympics team and encouraged participation in special Olympics events.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the City Council meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.


Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk