

March 23, 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*.

**Councilmembers joining remotely*

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; 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; DeNaide Dickens; Interim Director of Human Resources; Joel Dunn, Interim Parks and Recreation Director; Cynthia Jones, Director of Community and Business Development; Paula Carbone, Senior Internal Auditor; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Michael Roupp, Interim Division Chief of Operations; Don Moseley, Interim Commander (Police); William Whitley, Police Corporal and Police K-9 Harry; Tanika Cooper, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Julian Whitney, Assistant Fire Marshal; Jessie Nunery, Media Relations Specialist; Brenton Bent, Director of Water Resources; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officer: Retired Police Sergeant L. S. Parker, Jr.

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

WELCOME

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

AMEND AGENDA

The Mayor noted that today's agenda will require an amendment to add a closed session for a matter concerning economic development.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell, and unanimously carried that the minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held February 24, 2020 be 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 and the City's response to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19):

- All City Boards, Commissions and Committee meetings have been cancelled. In addition, Neighborhood meetings, Citizens Academy and the Rocky Mount Area Youth Council Meeting are cancelled. Program meetings such as Yoga in the Galleries and our Art programs are also cancelled.
- The Council Retreat originally scheduled for later this week and the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Workshop scheduled for April 3 have been postponed.
- Per the City Council's direction, there is now a moratorium on all utility disconnections until further notice and late fees will not be assessed during this time. If you are struggling and need help with your bill, please contact the Business Services Center at 252-972-1250.
- During this time, it is important you remember to fill out and send in your 2020 Census form. By now, you should have received your form in the mail. The census will determine funding for housing programs, schools, hospitals, economic development and much more in our community. You can respond online, by phone or by mail. For more information or to respond, visit 2020census.gov.
- The Communications, Marketing and Public Relations Office has released the latest edition of *My Rocky Mount Magazine*. All public utilities customers were mailed the magazine over the weekend. The magazine looks back at highlights from our city in 2019 as well as initiatives, news and schedules for 2020. *My Rocky Mount* was recognized last year for excellence at the North Carolina City and County Communicators Conference, winning first place for publications.
- The deadline is approaching for the first installment of the City Manager's Awards Program which recognizes employees excelling at exemplifying the City's Core Values. We appreciate those who have already submitted nominations. If you haven't done so already, you have until March 31 to get it done. Forms are available on-line at rockymountnc.gov. and, if you have questions, please contact Jessie Nunery at 252-972-1268.
- Finally, I would like to remind everyone the City of Rocky Mount is working to ensure you continue to receive excellent municipal services during this coronavirus pandemic. For the latest City updates you can visit rockymountnc.gov or access our various social media platforms. Also, I encourage you to follow all the safety measures recommended by the CDC.

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 individual and a summary of comments is outlined below:

- ***Johnny Cunningham:***
 - Requested the Mayor and Council defend him against racism;
 - Stated he has been discriminated against in the past as a black man, but has now had to defend himself in Court against a white nonprofit that identifies as a Christian organization; and

- o Said the non-profit organization has the upper hand because of donations they receive

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	666	PIPKIN, CARLA 2716 DEER RUN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	14.52 1.45 .32	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	16.29	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

NASH COUNTY

2019	1001849	RIVERA, REINALDO RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ, ALEXIS REY 118 FRAZIER CT ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803	61.10 2.14	CITY INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	63.24	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

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>EDGECOMBE COUNTY</u>				
2013	8629	SOUTH EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY DEV CORP LT 1 BLK G POWELL & SONS S/D ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	454.00 188.38	CITY INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	642.38	EXEMPT PROPERTY

NASH COUNTY

2019	1001253	BERGEN, SHERRY ANN 806 JASMINE DR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	221.77 7.76	CITY INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	229.53	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

B. K-9 RETIREMENT

The Council was advised that Police K-9 Harry is seven (7) years old and displaying diminished performance in his duties as a police K-9 and the Chief of Police has recommended that K-9 Harry be declared surplus, retired and awarded to Police Corporal William Whitley and that the City Manager be authorized to execute the retirement letter for K-9 Police dog Harry on behalf of the City in accordance with the provisions of N.C.G.S. 160A-266(c).

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the recommendations on the Consent

Agenda be approved inclusive of approval of the tax releases and/or refunds and retirement of Police dog Harry.

DEMOLITION ORDINANCE

The City Council received an ordinance ordering the Community Code Inspector to proceed with demolition of the following substandard properties which was deferred from the February 24, 2020 City Council meeting:

- a. 500/502 Clyde Street
- b. 1229 Hill Street
- c. 1014 Arlington Street
- d. 811 Clark Street

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2020-10** 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.

PROPERTY DISPOSITION/1110 SYCAMORE STREET

The City Clerk advised the City Council that the offer of \$3,000 received from Olga Korol to purchase 1110 Sycamore Street (PIN #376916141300) has been advertised for upset bids pursuant to G.S. 160A-269 and no upset bids were received.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2020-5** entitled **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY** be adopted. This resolution authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the deed conveying the property to Olga Korol on behalf of the City.

TRAFFIC ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

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

ADOPT:

- a) 55 MPH speed limit on Red Oak-Battleboro Road (SR1524) between 0.713 miles west of NC 4 and 1.036 miles west of NC 4;
- b) 55 MPH speed limit on Red Oak-Battleboro Road (SR1524) between US 301 and 0.027 miles west of US 301; and
- c) 45 MPH speed limit on Red Oak-Battleboro Road (SR1524) between the Edgecombe County line and US 301

The City Manager responded to questions from Councilmembers by stating this is a clean-up mechanism and the speed limits will not change.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. **O-2020-11** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDINANCE MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE/AMERICAN PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney provided the City Council with a mutual aid agreement for emergency assistance between the City of Rocky

Mount and American Public Gas Association (APGA). The Council was advised that the American Public Gas Association is a not-for-profit trade organization representing America's publicly owned natural gas local distribution companies (LDCs), of which the City of Rocky Mount is a member.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Assistance between the City of Rocky Mount and the American Public Gas Association be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Agreement (**C-2020-4**) on behalf of the City.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL/ELECTRONIC AUCTION

The City Council received a list of personal property proposed to be declared surplus and sold at electronic auction. The list shall be placed on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-11**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2020-6** entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY AT ELECTRONIC AUCTION** be adopted.

BIDS/SUNSET AVENUE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR STUDY

The City Council received the tabulation of bids received on a bid for the Sunset Avenue Transportation Corridor Study. Bids were received and opened on January 17, 2020 after all legal procedures had been implements. The solicitation was also posted on the City's purchasing webpage and on the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System website by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-12**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to Stantec Services, Inc. at a total cost of \$114,93 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City.

BID/NEW ELGIN CROSSWIND REGENERATIVE AIR STREET SWEEPER

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase one (1) New Elgin Crosswind Regenerative Air Street Sweeper through the Sourcewell Group Purchasing Program, a competitive group purchasing program that serves education and government agencies nationally through competitive bidding and offers competitively obtained purchasing solutions, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(3).

The Stormwater Division is requesting the purchase of one (1) New Elgin Crosswind Regenerative Air Street Sweeper based on contract #122017-FSC-Sewer Vacuum, Hydro-Excavation and Street Sweeper Equipment with related accessories and supplies, a bid awarded by Sourcewell.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that the purchase of one (1) New Elgin Crosswind Regenerative Air Street Sweeper at a total cost

of \$249,894 from Public Works Equipment and Supply, Inc. be approved and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

Bid documentation for this purchase will be filed with the bid documentation in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-13**.

BID/WORKSTATION AND OFFICE FURNITURE

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase Workstation and Office Furniture through the North Carolina Division of Purchase and Contract 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(9).

The statewide term contract on which the furniture was bid is Contract #420A-Furniture.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that the purchase of Workstation and Office Furniture a total cost of \$151,584.66 for the Department of Development Services and \$27,649.11 for the Department of Community and Business Development for a total cost of \$179,233.77 from Institutional Interiors, Inc. be approved and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

Bid documentation for this purchase will be filed with the bid documentation in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2020-14**.

TARBORO STREET HOUSING PROJECT/DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney recommended the selection of the Woda Cooper Companies as the development partner for the development of between 50-60 housing units on the Tarboro Street site. The City Council was advised that upon approval of the selection of the development partner, the next steps will be:

- 1) Negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the conveyance of the property to the Development Partner (sale or lease);
- 2) Council approval of the MOU; and
- 3) Start of the pre-development process (finalization of plan and design and securing project financing [LIHTCs and State Funds) by the development partner.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the Woda Cooper Companies be approved as the development partner. Council was advised that the MOU would come before the City Council for approval once negotiations are complete.

APPOINTMENTS

No action was taken to fill the vacancies on the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees.

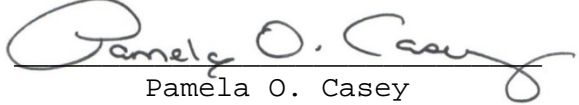
CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was requested to discuss a matter concerning economic development. The minutes of the closed session shall be placed on file as **ESM-548** at the end of Minute Book No. 37 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to closed session at 4:36 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor convened the City in regular session at 5:09 p.m. and there being no further business for regular session, adjourned the meeting.


Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk