

May 26, 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; Dorothy Brown Smith, Chief Communications and Marketing Consultant; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Staff present via MS Teams and/or for a portion of the meeting, as necessary: Elton Daniels, Assistant City Manager; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Jessie Nunery, Media Relations Specialist; Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager; Amy Staton, Finance Director; Chris Beschler, Energy Resources Director; and Brad Kerr, Public Works Director.

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and called on Councilmember Richard Joyner to offer prayer.

Councilmember Joyner requested a moment of silence to remember those lives lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic and offered prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held May 11, 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, May 11, 2020. The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF A REGULAR SCHEDULED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020, AT 5:00 P.M. IN THE GEORGE W. DUDLEY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE FREDERICK E. TURNAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING WITH MAYOR PRO TEM ANDRÉ D KNIGHT PRESIDING

NOTE: Participation limited due to Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order banning gatherings of more than ten (10) people relative to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19); meeting was available via Microsoft Teams and Facebook Live

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 "Sandy" Roberson, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Rochelle D. Small-Toney
Pamela O. Casey
Dorothy Brown Smith
Mark Adcox**
Elton Daniels**
Ken Hunter**
Jessie Nunery**
David Griffin**
Richard J. Rose

* participated remotely (Microsoft Teams)

***in meeting for limited time, as required*

Security Officer: L. S. Parker, Jr.**

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem André D Knight called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and called on Interim Parks and Recreation Director Joel Dunn to present the first agenda item.

BATTLE PARK GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM - *Joel Dunn*

Mr. Dunn thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the Parks and Recreation Department. He reported that the City was able to fund the Battle Park Master Plan in FY 2020 and provided the City Council with a PowerPoint presentation relative to the Master Plan highlighting the following:

- Battle Park is a jewel in the community, is heavily utilized and loved and is a connector through the trails system;
- The City has had success in leveraging grant funds due to Battle Park;
- It was important to have public input to obtain public buy-in which helps grants score higher; 3 public meetings were advertised through various means; the first meeting was canceled due to snow, but the remaining two meetings on February 27 and March 2, 2020 were extended by 30 minutes; great feedback was received through stakeholder and local groups meetings (list provided of groups);
- Targeting 6 grants; some already applied for:
 - o North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources Development Grant - \$199,873 (applied December 31, 2019; \$591,727 intentional overmatch through City and other grants)
 - Renovate: greenway, 2 fishing piers, boat ramp, canoe launch
 - New: 2 raingardens and I&E signage
 - o North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Recreational Trails Program Grant - \$100,000 (\$25,000 match; pre-application April 2020, full application September 2020)
 - New: 5k natural surface multi-use trail
 - Races, events, MTB, XC, first in park system
 - o North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (90-point score) - \$350,000 (June 1, 2020; \$500,000 intentional overmatch through City and other grants)
 - New: 5k trail, I&E, demonstration areas, nature play area, bike trail
 - Desired: 2nd canoe launch; dispersed picnic
 - Renovate: greenway, 2 piers, ramp, canoe launch, NCFS woodland implementation
 - Connect to greenways and parks
 - o National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or LWCF Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program - \$500,000; \$500,000 overmatch through City and other grants; July 1, 2020 (LWCF) and June 1, 2020 (LWCF-ORLP)
 - Renovate: greenway, 2 piers, boat ramp, canoe launch, NCFS woodland implementation

Mr. Dunn introduced the consultant who handled the process and worked with the architects and engineers (Reggie Scales, CLH Design).

Mr. Scales told the Council it has been a pleasure to work with Parks and Recreation staff, particularly Joel Dunn and David Griffin and added the City is lucky to have these two gentlemen. He stated he spent quite a bit of time talking to people to get ideas with the end in mind to develop a plan that was supported by all.

Council was advised that:

- an intentional overmatch is not unusual and helps the City to stand out and better chances of receiving grant awards;
- 6 city parks are adjacent to Battle Park and over 300 acres are connected;
- City has a large number of greenways that need to be updated;
- Staff will apply for both National Park Service grants;
- Park is convenient to US74/87 corridor;
- River-based recreation includes management of over 55 miles of paddle trail with 10 access locations and annual migration of shad and striped bass;
- Trailhead at Battle Park: greenway trail, Tar River paddle trail and new multi-surface trail all intersect at Battle Park and the park has the convenience of restroom and informational signage;
- Features of the park include:
 - Boulders (originally a big part of the park when established in 1976 along with the gazebo)
 - Native species and historic demonstration area focused on history of the park and native species; Forest Stewardship Plan to identify best practices
 - Economic Business case and future development are the long-term vision for Battle Park (always look for return on investment) and an economic case for the City (companies look at education when deciding on where to plant and recreational plans are a large part of location decisions)

Parks and Recreation staff responded to questions from Councilmembers relative to:

- Park size (compared to other parks)
- Responsibility relative to signage to identify public and private space, particularly relative to public fishing and monitoring
- Security
- Opportunities for commerce, i.e., canoeing, ziplining
- Eco-friendly trail materials

Mr. Scales stated that all focus groups talked about how to brand Battle Park to make it special and unique discussing it as a regional destination park. He added that thought needs to be given as to what the City desires the branding to be: river, education, proximity to highways and economic development. He added that studies have shown small business thrives in such areas.

Mayor Pro Tem Knight stated the Council has previously discussed the possibility of ziplining on Panther Island and added public and private property needs to be clearly identified and the cemetery protected. He stated Council would like to hear more about Panther Island including the potential of a connecting bridge.

Mr. Dunn told the Council the "outlook" was removed due to safety issues and there is currently no funding in place for a replacement though it is a long-term goal. He stated he can provide information relative to Panther Island to the Council at a later date.

Councilmember Blackwell questioned if there is a formal plan to engage the Tuscarora nation stating it is important to include its history and legacy. Mr. Griffin advised that signage will be placed throughout the park and welcomed information relative to contact information for someone with ties to the Tuscarora nation.

Mayor Pro Tem Knight reported that 6 months ago a citizen came to him inquiring about an Indian burial ground located behind the tiny homes at the Mill. He stated it is important to preserve that heritage.

He added he could identify the location of the potential cemetery. Mr. Griffin responded that he does not know of any specific burial grounds on the property and staff has been in touch with the State. He told the Council as the renovation project moves forward the archaeological team is aware they need to "sit lightly on the land."

Councilmember Daughtridge stated he is excited about the Park Plan adding that the Tar River is a great asset that has not been taken advantage of.

Discussion continued relative to paddle trails and Mr. Griffin told the Council that Rocky Mount is the steward of the largest paddle trail in North Carolina. Mr. Dunn stated that the City has plans to address work in this area.

The Mayor restated areas of interest outlined today include economic opportunity, Indian burial grounds and natural areas.

The City Manager told the Council the intent of today's presentation is to provide information and obtain Council input.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Information only; no formal action.

MAIN STREET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE - WATER/SEWER SERVICES -
Elton Daniels

The City Council was provided with proposed amendments to an Administrative Policy relative to Water and Sewer Connection Fees. Assistant City Manager Elton Daniels explained the policy amendments are directed towards economic incentive to develop properties (mixed-use development) along Main Street.

Councilmember Miller expressed a concern that existing businesses not be adversely affected. City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney told the Council the condition of the Downtown is improving but there comes a time the City needs to step up and provide other incentives to incent property owners. She added that Rocky Mount is not different from any other municipality that has gone through its Downtown evolving and without such incentives additional Downtown demolition will occur.

Council was advised the proposed policy amendments apply to properties along SE/NE Main Street from Edgecombe Street to Goldleaf Street and along SW/NW Main Street from Hammond Street to West Thomas Street. It was explained that the policy amendments provide for fees for new water services up to and including a 2-inch service be waived for properties in this area and for installation by the City. Additionally, fees for new sewer service up to and including a 6-inch service would also be waived and service installed by the City. It was noted that in areas other than Main Street, 2-inch services and sewer taps would continue to be installed by a contractor and existing installed services with adequate flow would not be affected. Additionally, it was explained that fees for new water services larger than 2 inches would be reduced by the value of the 2-inch service. Examples of projects for which the incentive may apply were identified as:

- Four or more apartments;
- Full-service kitchen; and
- Downstairs retail and three or more apartments

Applicable fees were outlined.

Discussion was held. Mayor Pro Tem Knight voiced a desire to have at least 100 people living, working and playing in the Downtown by the time the DFI project is completed. He stated that even in tough economic times it is his hope that the City not scale back on Downtown development incentives. Discussion continued relative to additional

incentives and Councilmember Daughtridge expressed a desire to see a list of all incentives.

The City Manager stated that Rocky Mount's investment in the Downtown is very small compared to other communities. Mayor Roberson stated he would like the City to consider coming up with a Downtown Development Master Plan.

Discussion continued with regard to past development incentives and investment in the Downtown, including the Streetscape development. Councilmember Blackwell stated that all positive development in the Downtown is beneficial to the entire City noting the private investment in the Veterans Park. He questioned how Council can say they love the City and not support Downtown growth adding that developers say the Downtown of a City is its living room. He expressed his support for the policy amendments.

Councilmember Daughtridge agreed with the Mayor stating that a Master Plan of incentives is needed so that the effect on the budget will be clear.

Councilmember Miller requested that when items are presented in terms of investment by other cities in their Downtowns that it be presented as a percentage of that City's tax base (as a percentage of their capital investment) and not as an amorphous number.

Councilmember Joyner requested that the items that were to be considered by Council at the canceled City Council retreat be placed on upcoming agendas.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and passed by a vote of 5-2 (Councilmembers Bullock and Daughtridge opposed) that consideration of the proposed policy amendments be placed on the May 26, 2020 City Council agenda for consideration.

DRAFT HERITAGE PEDESTRIAN TRAIL CONCEPTUAL PLAN - Brad Kerr

Public Works Director Brad Kerr provided a review of the Wayfinding District Plan (five districts: Downtown, Mills, Gateway, proposed Thelonious s. Monk and currently unnamed district) noting the proposal was to connect Downtown with the District to the north (yet to be named) through a Heritage Trail connection intended to celebrate and inform residents and visitors about the history of Rocky Mount.

Mr. Kerr told the Council that the Community Academy citizen working group will assist with proposed names for the District to the north and with developing content for the proposed pedestrian kiosks and interpretive signs.

He provided examples of proposed signage and pedestrian kiosks. Councilmember Daughtridge made inquiry relative to the choice of signage material and Mr. Kerr explained that the type of signage chosen is a standard material that will not need maintenance. He explained that the sign content can be changed out over time without the need to change the signs. Councilmember Daughtridge suggested that at some point there be interactive information on the City's webpage relative to the Heritage Pedestrian Trail. City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney stated that staff is investigating that possibility now and that kiosks may also be placed in City Hall, the Event Center, the Business Services Center and other frequently visited areas in the City.

Council was advised that Council's guidance is needed relative to moving forward with the Alexander Evans interpretive sign and construction of sidewalk on Spruce Street from Atlantic Avenue to park sidewalk connection.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Information only; no formal action.

REVIEW OF THIRD QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 20120 REPORT OF REVENUES/EXPENDITURES - Ken Hunter

Budget and Evaluation Manager Ken Hunter provided the City Council with the third quarter financial report for FY 2020.

Mr. Hunter informed the Council that overall financial activity for the City during the third quarter remained strong and above levels in prior years, especially in the General Fund; however, these revenues do not show the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which will result in significant decline in revenues during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. The City Council was provided with a report of revenues and expenditure.

He provided an overview to include general review of revenues and expenditure, operating ratio analysis, end of year projects for the General Fund; and an employment update as follows:

- General fund:
 - o Ad valorem and sales tax growth continues
 - o Revenue growth is outpacing spending growth through the 3rd quarter
 - o Actions already taken to reduce operating budgets to offset anticipated revenue decline due to COVID-19 pandemic
 - o Do not anticipate using Adopted Appropriated Fund Balance
- Utilities (Enterprise funds):
 - o Electric and Gas:
 - Sales below budgeted projections in electric and gas (moderate winter; wholesale cost down)
 - Expenditure activity reduced, primarily due to reduced energy costs
 - o Water and Sewer:
 - Water sales close to budgeted projections
 - Sewer sales remain down due to dry weather, lower key customer use
 - Expenditures reflect planned capital activity
- Operating Ratios:
 - o Fluctuates during year due to revenue collection (mainly due to property tax collected)
 - o Targets were identified as:
 - .75 end of 1st quarter
 - 1.20 end of 2nd quarter
 - 1.11 end of 3rd quarter
 - 1.00 end of 4th quarter (projected)
 - o FY 2020 Performance was outlined as:
 - .77 end of 1st quarter
 - 1.23 end of 2nd quarter
 - 1.12 end of 3rd quarter
 - 1.00 end of 4th quarter (projected)

Mr. Hunter explained that the goal is to end with a ratio of 1.00 which will mean the fund balance will not need to be used and to find savings and growths in revenues.

He provided the Council with FY 2020 General Fund Revenue Projections and added the City was looking at a very good fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic which will have a significant impact. He added the City is looking at a shortfall of \$2.6M and the budget has been reduced more than that amount. He added this does not take into account any stabilization.

Mr. Hunter provided the City Council with employment information noting it is slightly down for the year. He added that approximately 43,500 jobs are service-providing and average wages by sector have not seen significant changes.

The Budget and Evaluation Manager concluded his presentation by advised Council that the City is prepared for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the current year's budget. He added that FY 2021 will be difficult and will start with a conservative outlook. Mr. Hunter reported amendments are anticipated to increase appropriations as the situation improves. The Council was advised that only revenues the City is certain to receive are being considered and the situation is expected to be fluid. He stated the hope is that recovery improves in a solid fashion.

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

CLOSED SESSION. The Mayor Pro Tem noted a Closed Session for matters concerning economic development and personnel is on the agenda.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *Motion was made at 6:33 p.m. by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the City Council enter into a Closed Session.*

The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as **ESM-551** at the end of **Minute Book 37** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

OPEN SESSION

There being no further business for Closed Session, the Mayor Pro Tem called for a motion to return to open session.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole return to open session at 6:58 p.m.

NOTE: Due to time restraints, the closed session agenda item relative to personnel was moved to the Regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER

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

- Ken Hunter, Budget and Evaluation Manager, has been promoted as the Assistant to the City Manager for Budget and Evaluation. Ken has served as Budget and Evaluation Manager for thirteen years and has ensured year after year that the City has a balanced budget. She provided information relative to Mr. Hunter's education and professional work history and accomplishments and asked Mr. Hunter to stand to be recognized;
- Staffing will return to normal levels on June 1; staff has served admirably to ensure all services have continued during the COVID-19 pandemic and the City is moving into Phase Two of the governor's executive order;
- The first three recipients of the City Manager's Award are: Alicyn Wiedrich, Art Curator; Brenton Bent, Water Resources Director; and Quentin Whitaker, construction worker. It was announced that nominations are currently being accepted for the July awards;

- Fire Department Battalion Chief Eric Summerlin was recognized and congratulated for recently becoming the 13th member of the Fire Department to graduate from the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy;
- Starting June 1, applications for the Residential Façade Improvement Grant Program will be accepted. She added that the program, administered through the Human Relations Department, will offer eligible homeowners in designated areas of the City the opportunity to beautify residential property façades and provides for a grant of up to \$5,000, with no requirement for matching funds. Interested individuals should contact the Human Relations Department at 252-972-1181 or visit rockymountnc.gov to find the list of eligibility standards and obtain an application.
- Pursuant to the City Council's direction, the moratorium on all utility disconnections will continue until further notice and late fees will not be assessed during this time. She added to further assist in response to financial hardships stemming from the pandemic the City has been awarded \$5,000 from the United Way COVID-19 Urgent Relief Fund and estimates it will have approximately \$12,000 at the end of the 2021 WARM Program season to assist with utility bills. She announced the program has been named the COVID-19 Utility Assistance Program and provides a one time \$200 utility payment if customers meet eligibility guidelines. More information may be obtained from the Business Services Center.

2019 AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER (RP3) AND ELECTRICITIES OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC POWER AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Mayor Roberson introduced Roy Jones, CEO of Electricities of North Carolina, Inc., joining the meeting via teleconference. Mr. Jones thanked the City for allowing him to participate in the meeting remotely.

Mr. Jones told the Council that the City's Energy Resources department has earned a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service. He reported that the RP3 designation, which lasts three years, recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in the following four key disciplines: 1) reliability; 2) safety; 3) workforce development; and 4) system improvement. He added that criteria include sound business practices and a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. He added this is the 6th time the City has received the Diamond Level award and Rocky Mount is the only municipality in North Carolina to receive the award 6 times.

Mr. Jones reported that Electricities of North Carolina is a not-for-profit trade organization representing North Carolina's municipally owned electric power companies, of which the City of Rocky Mount is a member. He stated that each year Electricities recognizes member power communities for superior achievement in five key areas and Rocky Mount is being recognized for its achievement in four of the five areas: 1) communicating the value of public power; 2) continuous improvement; 3) workforce development; and 4) wholesale power costs.

He added that the City is always quick to step up and respond to mutual aid requests and send help to communities throughout the State when assistance is needed.

He congratulated the City on receiving these prestigious awards and said they are a testament of the hard work of City staff to provide safe, reliable electric service to the City's customers.

Mayor Roberson presented the awards to Director of Energy Resources Chris Beschler and joined him for a photograph.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Mayor reminded citizens that civility is desired and public comment is limited to three minutes. He recognized the following individuals for public comment and a summary of comments is outlined below:

- ***Nehemiah Smith:***
 - Stated he found some of the State Auditor's findings to be questionable
 - Stated he has made a complaint to the State Auditor in reference to Top Dog dumpsters still being located at City Hall
- ***Troy Davis:***
 - Stated he feels it was unjust that a person asked a Councilmember to resign over a false narrative, but the same person supported an individual who owed the City rent for a building
- ***Dr. Lisa Nelson Robinson:***
 - Stated she feels the audit is an effort to block and redirect resources for economic development for the citizens that make up the majority of the City
 - Stated the current audit ignores the fact that write offs are a common practice across the country
 - Stated she feels certain citizens are upset now because resources are going in a direction, they do not want them to go in
- ***Celeste Beatty:***
 - Stated she came to Rocky Mount to start her brewery because of the history in Rocky Mount and all the inspiring people that have lived here
 - Stated she feels everyone can come to the table and agree to disagree but still find a common thread to address some of the issues that people may not understand
- ***Dr. Charles Chambliss, Jr.:***
 - Stated the community is divided and the county lines between Nash, Rocky Mount and Edgecombe are not accidental
 - Stated he feels many of the activities generated in the white community are vestiges of past discrimination that dates all the way back to slavery
 - Stated he felt Council needed to talk about how to address problems instead of whether they feel comfortable together
- ***Bronson Williams:***
 - Said the City Charter states the City Manager is the person who delivers directives to City staff
 - Stated he feels the role of the Mayor is to unite the community around common goals
- ***Kiyah Darden:***
 - Stated she feels there was an agenda to tarnish the character of black leadership

- Stated she stood with Councilmember Knight and his record
- **Pastor Antoinette Cutler:**
 - Stated the City needs to be moved forward not backward
- **Johnny Cunningham:**
 - Stated that he has said harsh words about the African American Leadership in the past, but they are very forgiving
 - Stated he hopes the Council keeps up the diligent work they are doing for the City
- **Nathlyn Ohree:**
 - Stated she was disgusted with the way the audit report has been abused and misused
 - Stated she expects all elected officials to conduct business in a manner that improves the living environment for everybody
- **Susan Perry Cole:**
 - Stated she was speaking as a member of the Community Academy
 - Urged the Council to use a portion of the 2020 CDBG allocation to fund an emergency residential customer utility assistance program
 - Expressed appreciation for Councilmember Blackwell’s tireless efforts to ensure equality and inclusion in Rocky Mount
- **Morrie Minges :**
 - Asked if the City was responsible for the control of fire ants
 - Requested the City Council have a section in the paper for citizens to ask them questions
 - Stated in order for Council to earn trust back they needed to be honest and available

The Mayor closed the petitions from the public portion of the meeting.

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>EDGECOMBE COUNTY</u>				
2019	453	COCKRELL, MANDY JEAN 313 BRASWELL WOODS CIR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	36.44 3.64 2.00	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	42.08	
2014	2675	FISCHBACH, GARY W 129 CRESTVIEW RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	58.64 5.86 32.25	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	96.75	
2015	522	FISCHBACH, GARY W 129 CRESTVIEW RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	60.70 6.07 27.38	CITY PEN INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	94.15	

2016	2323	FISCHBACH, GARY W 129 CRESTVIEW RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	60.26 6.03 21.21	CITY PEN INT	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	87.50		
2017	515	FISCHBACH, GARY W 129 CRESTVIEW RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	65.27 6.53 16.51	CITY PEN INT	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	88.31		
2018	233	FISCHBACH, GARY W 129 CRESTVIEW RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	67.34 6.73 10.37	CITY PEN INT	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	84.44		
2019	654	FISCHBACH, GARY W 129 CRESTVIEW RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	67.13 6.71 3.70	CITY PEN INT	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	77.54		
2019	222	LUSTER, JUDY VERONICA 301 N GLENDALE AVE ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	26.03 2.60 1.43	CITY PEN INT	OWNER CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	30.06		

NASH COUNTY

2019	1002108	WILLIAMS, YVONNE APPLEWHITE 1229 BEAL ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	49.71 29.83 2.78	CITY PEN INT	OWNER CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	82.32		
2019	1002109	WILLIAMS, YVONNE APPLEWHITE 1229 BEAL ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	51.85 25.93 2.72	CITY PEN INT	OWNER CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	80.50		
2019	1002110	WILLIAMS, YVONNE APPLEWHITE 1229 BEAL ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	51.85 20.74 2.54	CITY PEN INT	OWNER CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	75.13		
2019	1002111	WILLIAMS, YVONNE APPLEWHITE 1229 BEAL ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	56.56 16.97 2.57	CITY PEN INT	OWNER CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	76.10		
2019	1002112	WILLIAMS, YVONNE APPLEWHITE 1229 BEAL ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	58.70 11.74 2.46	CITY PEN INT	OWNER CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	72.90		

At the request of Councilmember Miller, the Finance Director explained that tax releases/refunds result from adjustments made by the counties.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that the tax releases and/or refunds be approved as recommended.

BATTLE PARK MASTER PLAN

The City Council was advised that funds were set aside in FY 2020 for a Battle Park Master Plan. They were advised that proposals were received and opened on August 29, 2019 for requests for proposals for the Battle Park Master Plan and following review by the Purchasing Department the bid was awarded to CPL as the most qualified firm.

Council was provided with details relative to the Master Plan process and advised that CPL has completed the plan. Highlights of the Plan were outlined as:

- Renovation of over 7,500 feet of asphalt trail currently in the park;
- Removal of current shelters and addition of dispersed mini shelters throughout the park;
- Addition of Interpretation and Environmental signage to the park;
- Addition of first multi-use natural surface 5K trail at Battle Park;
- Addition of restroom facility at Battle Park;
- Addition of security camera and Blue Light emergency phones at Battle Park;
- Addition of rain gardens, bouldering areas and bike trails at Battle Park;
- Other amenities that include benches, water fountains, trash receptacles, bike racks and directional signage; and
- Future phases recommendations once funds become available

It was requested that the City Council approve and adopt the Battle Park Master Plan and noted that adoption of the plan does not include obligation for funding but will improve scoring for future grant applications.

A motion to table consideration made by Councilmember Bullock failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Daughtridge express support for the plan but noted he would like to see a park in the western part of the City. He added that the only park in that area is in the Bunn Farm Subdivision and it is important to consider placing a park in Ward 5 as the Council talks about unity and added that the western portion of the City is part of the City.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and unanimously carried that the Battle Park Master Plan be approved and adopted.

PARKS AND RECREATION GRANTS/NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES/BATTLE PARK RENOVATIONS

The City Council was provided with the following grant pre-application and application to the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources to assist with Battle Parks Renovations:

- a) Pre-application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (\$500,000; requires 50% match for every dollar received); and
- b) Application for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (\$350,000; requires 50% match for every dollar received)

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried that staff be authorized to submit the pre-application/application and that the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney be authorized to execute any required documentation and certifications, including subsequent grant applications and agreements on behalf of the City.

HOUSING INCENTIVE GRANTS

The following Housing Incentive Grants were approved by the City Council on November 25, 2019:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Recommended Award</u>
South Eastern North Carolina CDC	\$150,000
Greater Joy CDC	100,000
Gotta Win, LLC	85,000
AFRESHnewSTART	100,000

Councilmember Daughtridge voiced concerns previously stated relative to gift laws.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the City Manager, Finance Director, Community & Business Development Director and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Housing Incentive Agreements with the following agencies on behalf of the City:

- **C-2020-8** South Eastern North Carolina CDC
- **C-2020-9** Greater Joy CDC
- **C-2020-10** Gotta Win, LLC
- **C-2020-11** AFRESHnewSTART

JOINT ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT (CMTS, LLC)/ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER

The City Council approved an agreement with CMTS, LLC, the owner's representative for construction of the Rocky Mount Event Center, effective January 1, 2017. Council was advised that the cost associated with the contract (\$279,872.90) is eligible for new market tax credit reimbursement; however, the City must jointly assign the contract to DCF, LLC, the new market tax credit eligible entity. The City Council was further advised that the project is complete, and all costs are paid and this process is consistent with other contracts assigned to DCF, LLC for the Rocky Mount Event Center project where costs are eligible for new market funding.

Councilmember Daughtridge voiced concern for conflicts of interest and was advised by the City Attorney that the new market tax credit attorneys were aware of the potential conflict of interest issue and it is his understanding they looked into it and determined it was not a concern.

A motion made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Councilmember Joyner that the Mayor be authorized to execute the Assignment Agreement (**C-2020-12**) on behalf of the City passed by a vote of 5-2 (Councilmembers Bullock and Daughtridge opposed).

POLICY AMENDMENT/WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION FEES (MAIN STREET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE)

The City Council was provided with revised Administrative Policy No. X.2.9 entitled "Policy: Water and Sewer Connection Fees." The Council was advised that the amended policy will provide an economic incentive to develop properties in the Downtown Core overlay zone.

Councilmember Daughtridge stated he stands by his concern relative to gift clause restrictions and would like to see a full plan for incentive grants so that Council can look at the grants all at once.

A motion made by Councilmember Knight and seconded by Councilmember Joyner that **Ordinance No. O-2020-18** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NO. X.2.9 ENTITLED "POLICY: WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION FEES"** be adopted passed by a vote of 5-2 (Councilmembers Daughtridge and Bullock opposed).

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE HEROES ACT

The City Council was presented with a resolution supporting the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES ACT) introduced by House Democratic Leadership in an effort to start negotiations on the next relief effort to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2020-14** entitled **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT SUPPORTING THE "HEROES ACT"** be adopted.

BUDGET REVIEW SCHEULE

The City Manager reminded the City Council of the budget work session schedule relative to the proposed 2020-2021 budget:

- Thursday, May 21st - City Manager Proposed FY 2021 Budget distributed to City Council
- Thursday, May 28th - Presentation of City Manager Proposed FY 2021 Budget (pre-recorded) and Council Work session. 4 p.m. (Council Chamber)
- Monday, June 1st - Council Work Session, 4 p.m. (Council Chamber)
- Tuesday, June 2nd - Council Work Session, 4 p.m. (Council Chamber)
- Thursday, June 4th - Council Work Session, 4 p.m. (Council Chamber)
- Monday, June 8th - Budget Public Hearing during Regular Council Meeting, 7 p.m. (Council Chamber)
- Wednesday, June 10th - Council Work Session (if Necessary), 4 p.m. (Council Chamber)
- Monday, June 22nd - Budget Adoption during Regular Council Meeting, 4 p.m. (Council Chamber)

She noted all dates are subject to change.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Daughtridge requested that suggestions made during the public comment by Sue Perry Cole relative to the use of CDBG funds to assist with utility payments be explored. He added if this can be done it could help ease the strain on a vast number of people.

APPOINTMENTS

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

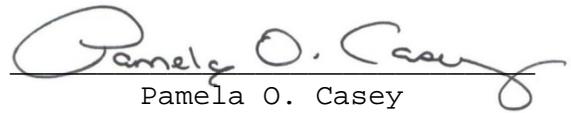
CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was requested to discuss a matter concerning attorney-client privilege. The minutes of the closed session shall be placed on file as **ESM-553** at the end of Minute Book No. 37 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to closed session at 5:35 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor convened the City in regular session at 5:51 p.m. and there being no further business for regular session, adjourned the meeting.


Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk