

June 22, 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*.

**joining remotely*

Staff present: Rochelle Small-Toney, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Dorothy Brown Smith, Chief Communications and Marketing Consultant; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Ken Hunter, Assistant to the City Manager for Budget and Evaluation; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Staff present via MS Teams and/or for a portion of the meeting, as necessary: Natasha Hampton and Elton Daniels, Assistant City Managers; Joel Dunn, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation; Cynthia Jones, Director of Community and Business Development; Kena Cofield-Jones, Director of Human Resources; Latasha Hall, Director of Business & Collections Services; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Bob Batchelor, Technology Services Systems Administrator; Brad Kerr, Director of Public Works; and Tanika Cooper, Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

Others present: Nick Ellis, Poyner & Spruill.

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and requested a moment of silence to allow those in attendance to pray to their God and to reflect on how each can help the City of Rocky Mount provide wisdom for actions taken or direction for the City

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held June 8, 2020 be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

The City Council received the minutes from a regular scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting held June 8, 2020. The minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF A REGULAR SCHEDULED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, JUNE 8, 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
 Ken Hunter**
 Robin Cox
 Richard J. Rose

* participated remotely (Microsoft Teams)
 **in meeting for limited time, as required

PARTICIPATING VIA MS TEAMS

Natasha Hampton
 Corey Mercer
 Bob Batchelor
 Elton Daniels
 Kena Cofield-Jones
 Latasha Hall

Security Officer: L. S. Parker, Jr.

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem André D Knight called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and called on City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney to introduce agenda items.

PROPOSED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FY 2020-2021- Cynthia T. Jones

The City Manager reported that staff is at the point of asking Council for its consideration of the FY 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan. She added that 2021 is the final year of the adopted FY 2018-2021 Three-Year Consolidated Plan. Ms. Small-Toney called on Cynthia Jones, the Director of Community and Business Development, for a presentation.

Ms. Jones advised the City Council that the Annual Action Plan is required by localities receiving funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnership Program of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She added that the City will receive \$526,640 in CDBG funding and \$309,806 in CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding and the Down East HOME Consortium will receive \$417,205 in HOME funding for the FY 2020-2021 program year. The City Council was advised that the Annual Action Plan is due on July 15, 2020.

Ms. Jones noted that the Annual Action Plan provides a summary of how CDBG and HOME funding will be used to address priority needs and goals as identified in the City's Three-Year Consolidated Plan and is a public document developed through a series of activities giving elected officials and community members an opportunity to provide input on local needs, goals and the use of funds.

Ms. Jones presented a PowerPoint presentation that:

- Provided a summary of the FY 2018-2021 Three-Year Consolidated Plan Goals
- Summarized the proposed FY 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan
- Outlined federal funding sources as:

PROGRAM	FY 2019-2020 ALLOCATION	FY 2020 - 2021 ALLOCATION
DEHC HOME	\$537,505	\$417,205
Rocky Mount CDBG	560,957	526,640
Rocky Mount CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV)		309,806

- Explained DEHC HOME fund allocations

The City Council was advised that the following nine (9) jurisdictions will participate in the Down East Home Consortium: Conetoe; Edgecombe County; Middlesex; Pinetops; Princeville; Rocky

Mount; Sharpsburg; Spring Hope; and Whitakers. Ms. Jones advised that the following jurisdictions will no longer participate effective July 1, 2020: Nash County, Tarboro and Nashville. It was noted that funding will be reduced due to the reduction in participation.

Ms. Jones explained CDBG fund allocations and outlined CDBG expenditures for the past two (2) years to include single family housing rehabilitation, public services and economic development technical assistance. The City Council was provided with a map reflecting the locations of 23 completed housing repairs in FY 2019. Councilmember Daughtridge stated that the map reflects allocations in Wards 1, 2, 3, 4 along with one allocation each in Wards 5 and 6 but none in Ward 7. Conversation was held relative to the funding distribution process. Councilmember Daughtridge requested that a list of those applying for assistance who were not accepted be shared with Councilmembers.

Ms. Jones responded to questions from Council relative to the application process. She told the Councilmembers that the suggestion has been made to include inserts in utility bills to make citizens aware of program offerings.

Councilmember Blackwell requested that staff look at mapping all related programs so that Council can see the breadth of work performed but also work yet to be done. He added when certain programs were created from the General Fund it was clear there was a backlog of citizens who qualified, but also some citizens that did not qualify also needed assistance. He added there was also a desire to incentivize those not needing assistance to also improve their property so that all were working to create a better-looking City.

Ms. Jones identified the \$526,640 FY 2020-2021 CDBG funding breakdown as follows:

Program Administration (20%)	\$105,328
Section 108 Loan Repayment (Douglas Block)	103,000
Public Service (15%)	78,996
Redevelopment Projects	164,316
Rehab Delivery Costs	50,000
Economic Development Activity	25,000
TOTAL	\$526,640

The City Council was provided with a list of proposed CDBG project areas to include:

- Redevelopment Projects (\$164,316)
 - Housing rehabilitation costs - Rehab 12 units to serve 12 households (Down East (3); Holly Street (3); Central City (3); Southeast Rocky Mount (3))
- Rehab Delivery Costs - support rehabilitation needs assessments, cost estimates, pre and post inspections, write-ups, project monitoring and rehab for 20 housing units (\$50,000)
- Economic Development - provided support services for start-up and existing businesses by providing one-on-one small business counseling and technical assistance (\$25,000)
- Public Service - assist residents by award funding to non-profits through an RFP process (\$78,996)

Mayor Pro Tem Knight suggested that someone on staff focus attention on looking for grants to leverage funding. The City Manager stated that has been considered but is not in place this year. She added she would prefer to have a grant in place to fund the grant writer position prior to moving forward and would want to be sure the position would yield the funds hoped for. She added she is not aware of any grants for funding such a position but can look into that. She added CDBG activities are usually supported with General funds.

The Council was informed that through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) \$5B of been made available to

respond to the growing effects of this historic public health crisis (pandemic) and may be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19 (coronavirus). Ms. Jones advised the City Council that it is recommended that the City's allocation be used for utilities assistance and that applicants will need to meet income eligibility guidelines. Councilmember Blackwell stated that the COVID-19 pandemic is not going away right and time soon. Ms. Small-Toney added that the Governor has extended the utility moratorium for another sixty (60) days. The Mayor Pro Tem questioned the plan to address needs for families needing help with utility bills that do not meet income eligibility guidelines for CDBG assistance. Ms. Small-Toney stated United Way funding of \$5,000 is available in addition to WARM Program funding and staff will monitor the situation.

Councilmember Joyner questioned if there is information regarding the number of customers who are unable to pay their utility bills and the likelihood of them being able to catch up those payments once the moratorium is lifted. The City Manager stated for the most part customers are paying their utility bills. She recognized the new Business & Collections Services Department for assistance provided to customers (residential and commercial).

Ms. Jones, responding to a question from Mayor Roberson relative to eligible uses for CARES Act funds, stated there are other qualified uses for the funds, but staff recommends they be used for utility assistance because that need has been brought to the attention of staff. Mayor Pro Tem Knight stated that he has requested the City Manager look at allocating \$50,000 to \$60,000 for households who do not meet income eligibility guidelines but also need assistance.

Ms. Jones outlined the schedule for public processes and advised the City Council that the public display period began on Monday, June 8, 2020 and will end on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. She added that the public display period will be advertised and during the public display period the Annual Action Plan will be on display in the Department of Community and Business Development, on the City's website and in County office buildings. She noted the public hearings will be held in Rocky Mount (Nash County to be included) and Edgecombe County and the public hearings will be advertised.

It was recommended that staff be authorized to proceed with the public display period and advertising and that the FY 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan be placed on the July 13, 2020 City Council agenda (including public comments) for Council consideration. The City Council was provided with the proposed Annual Action Plan.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Information only; no formal action.

URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM (URP20) - Cynthia T. Jones

Cynthia Jones, Director of Community & Business Development, reported that the City has been awarded \$100,000 from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to provide urgent repairs for low- and very low-income homeowners within the city limits. She stated that repairs will be limited to \$10,000 and staff anticipates completing a minimum of twelve (12) repairs.

It was reported that the grant agreement requires that Council approve the URP20 Post Approval Documentation (PAD), URP20 Procurement and Disbursement Policy and URP Assistance Policy and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute/attest the URP20 Procurement and Disbursement Policy and URP20 Assistance Policy and that the City Manager and City Clerk be authorized to execute/attest the URP20 PAD on behalf of the City.

In response to a question relative to income guideline eligibility from Councilmember Daughtride, Ms. Jones advised that most programs follow similar policies with some variations, however, this particular

program follows the guidelines of the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Information only; no formal action.

DOWNTOWN OUTLOOK REPORT - Kevin Harris

Downtown Development Manager Kevin Harris outlined the economic impact of major early investments and futures investments as:

- MAJOR EARLY INVESTMENTS
 - o Imperial Centre - \$36M
 - o Douglas Block - \$8.3M
 - o Rocky Mount Event Center - \$42M
- FUTURE PLANNED INVESTMENTS (2-3 years; total development approximately \$50M; private investment approximately \$44M; map provided)
 - o 700-space parking deck
 - o Tier one hotel (SpringHill Suites Marriott; up to 109 rooms)
 - o 20,000 square feet of retail space (oriented to support small businesses and entrepreneurships)
 - o 60 units of mixed-income oriented residential housing
 - o Douglas Block Expansion (due to severe maintenance issues plan to replace Stokes building with new mixed-used facility; retail/residential)
 - o Tarboro Street Housing (DFI project; proposed 60-units of affordable/work force housing)
 - o Atlantic Avenue Corridor (revitalize and improve properties and primary thoroughfare between I-64 to Event Center)
 - o East Grand Avenue Corridor Study

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney told the Council it is hopeful that space for relocation of tenants of the Stokes building can be identified within the next three months.

Mr. Harris provided information relative to the economic impact of leveraging private investment in the Downtown. He noted there are 103 business located in the Downtown and voiced appreciation of both the new businesses and legacy business. He outlined and provided detailed information relative to the following available financial incentives:

- Downtown Building Assistance Program
- Accelerated Façade Improvement
- Roof Replacement and Repair
- Downtown Development Incentive

He reported that Station Square, Moe & D's, Larema Coffee Shop, D Chill Spot, Belair Art Center and Blanchés Bistro are all notable Downtown Building Assistance Program successes.

Mr. Harris told the Council he is excited about the newest Downtown neighbor, Carolinas Gateway Partnership, that will be located on the second floor of Station Square.

Discussion was held relative to a recent policy change to allow the City Manager to approve additional time to obtain a certificate of occupancy (to be decided on a case by case basis) to allow staged development (implements use of Deed of Trust to secure investment).

Mr. Harris told the Council the future focus is for increased residential properties in the Downtown including diverse demographics, mixed income, re-use for vacant and aging buildings and greater safety with density.

He added that changing demographics contribute to the increase in demand for Downtown residential properties (young and old more likely to rent; prefer walkable communities; greater access to resources/entertainment).

Mr. Harris told the Council residents and workers within walking distance to retail spend three times as much and Downtown residential properties contribute to increased property values. He provided photos of properties under development: Davis Lofts and Andrew Clark.

Councilmember Blackwell inquired relative to the status of the DFI project. City Attorney Richard J. Rose reported that an agreement had been received from DFI, changes requested, and the agreement has been returned to DFI. He stated the timeline for receiving the revised agreement back is contingent upon receipt of tax credits. City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney noted the timeline for development is likely 2022.

Kevin Harris reported on Downtown Revitalization projects he had the opportunity to visit in Salisbury and requested that Council consider a proposed additional incentive (Residential Production Program) to incentivize re-use or new construction to develop residential units within the Downtown Core (\$5,000 per unit; \$50,000 max).

Mr. Harris added that another focus for the Downtown is to revitalize vacant and blighted properties by:

- Contacting property owners
- Making owners aware of property rehab resources
- Utilizing targeted incentives
- Assisting with tenant recruitment; and
- Demolition by neglect as a final resource

He told the Council historic tax credits should be promoted but the challenge is that developers say use of tax credits slow development and increase costs. He suggested consultants be brought to the table to provide education relative to the use of tax credits.

Mr. Harris told the Council that North Carolina Main Street members are considered "affiliate" or "accredited" and that those words can be used interchangeably.

Councilmember Blackwell expressed a desire to have the developer of the Downtown hotel project come back to present an update to the City Council. He stated he is in favor of the project and would like an update from the developer to see if he is still interested in the project and if he is ready to move the project forward. He questioned if the City could develop dialogue with Self Help adding it could be a real anchor for downtown development.

Councilmember Daughtridg stated the Ratio Design Plan has been paid for but not yet adopted. He supported the use of tax rebates and said he is familiar with tax rebates and thinks they would appeal to investors. City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney agreed that a tax rebate approach could be a good addition. She stated that rehabilitation has not been haphazard but is often based on what the City can afford. She stated staff does not blindly offer incentives. She added that Mr. Harris is up close and personal to the Downtown Community and knows what is needed and desired.

The Mayor Pro Tem stated he wants to see the Downtown moving and wants to see people living, working and playing Downtown. He questioned when the hotel project will be on the Local Government Commission agenda.

Councilmember Blackwell thanked the Manager and her team for being tough and handling the heat of disparaging comments on the front page of

the newspaper and for being focused and moving the City forward. He added he is looking forward to a Downtown hotel.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Information only; no formal action.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES - Pam Casey

Due to time restraints, there was no discussion relative to boards, commissions and committees.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried that the City Council adjourn to Closed Session at 6:47 p.m. to discuss a matter concerning attorney-client privilege. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be placed on file as ESM 554, Minute Book 37, upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor Pro Tem convened the Committee in regular session at 7:03 p.m. and, there being no further business for the Committee of the Whole, adjourned the meeting.

Printed copies 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 by roll call vote 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:

- She thanked the Rocky Mount Fire Department and all City departments for the tremendous work done last week during the flooding that affected parts of the City and said that as of Friday, June 19, a fire department crew, led by the Swiftwater Emergency Rescue team, assisted 92 citizens and 4 pets to safety. Approximately 75 residences were affected as well as 20 commercial structures in what has been ranked as the third worst flooding event in the history of our City.
- She extended sincere thanks to the City employees who volunteered during the COVID-19 Food Distribution Campaign held on Thursday, June 18 at the Rocky Mount Event Center. Approximately 500 people received boxes of fruits, vegetables and other items that will be used to feed our community's families. The support shown for the event was tremendous. She expressed a special thank you to Archie Jones, Director of the Human Relations Department, for the successful organization of the event.
- She congratulated Elton Daniels, Assistant City Manager, on his appointment as Secretary/Treasurer of the North Carolina City/County Management Association adding he will serve a one-year term that will not only help his professional growth, but also give our City a seat at the table on the state's largest local government professional organization.

- She acknowledged that this is a difficult time for a lot of residents with layoffs and furloughs. She stated that pursuant to the City Council's direction as well as a pair of Executive Orders from our Governor, there is a moratorium on all utility disconnections until further notice and late fees will not be assessed during this time. She stated if customers are struggling and need help with their bills, they can contact the Business Services Center at 252-972-1250.
- She announced that OIC will hold free COVID-19 testing sites at the Rocky Mount Event Center. Walk-up testing begins Tuesday, June 23, while drive-up testing opens Tuesday, June 30. Those tested will need to bring their photo ID and insurance cards. Insurance is not required for testing. Testing days will be Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration can be performed prior to arrival by logging on to oicrmhub.com. Call 252-210-9856 for more information.
- The City will not hold its annual July 3rd celebration. She said the safety and well-being of our citizens is a priority, and holding a mass gathering during the COVID-19 pandemic is not advisable per state and Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. She wished citizens a safe and enjoyable time as they celebrate the upcoming holiday. The Manager added that Downtown Live! and Lawn Chair Theatre events are postponed until further notice.
- She stated that the Parks and Recreation Department began its pair of annual summer camps this morning. The sessions are open to children ages 5-12 and will be held at two sites - The Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences and the Booker T. Washington Community Centre and will run June 22-July 31, Monday-Friday, from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Camps are limited to 50 children per site. Please register in person at the Booker T. Washington Community Center or South Rocky Mount Community Center. Call 252-467-4925 or 252-972-1169 for more information.
- During this time, it is important citizens remember to fill out and send in their 2020 Census form. The census will determine funding for housing programs, schools, hospitals, economic development and much more in our community. Responses can be made online, by phone, or by mail. For more information or to respond, visit 2020census.gov.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Mayor opened the meeting for petition from the public and noted public comment is limited to three minutes. He recognized the following individuals for public comment and a summary of comments is outlined below:

- ***Tom Harris***
 - Voiced concern about the amount of the yearly utility write-offs, adding that with the pandemic the write-offs for FY 2020-2021 may be even higher
 - Asked for an explanation about how the accounts are written off adding that the dollar amount is huge
 - Questioned the status of the Downtown hotel/parking deck project stating that the hotel industry has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. He questioned the status of when the project will be reviewed by the LGC.
- ***Morrie Minges***
 - Stated the speaker system is an improvement from the last meeting

- Requested that citizens asking a yes or no question during a City Council meeting receive an answer, even if by telephone following the meeting
 - Stated she feels Councilmembers should not be rude to one another and should treat each other with respect and relayed an event in which she felt a Councilmember was rude
 - Questioned when the \$48,000 for utilities will be repaid
 - Requested that people not litter adding that it took 3.5 hours for her to clean up the area in front of her business and now there is more trash there
- ***Nehemiah Smith***
 - Stated there is an issue with respect for the black community by some business owners, and it will no longer be tolerated
 - Stated if a business is disrespectful “we” can put you out of business adding that not only do black lives matter but black dollars matter
 - Stated when any business is disrespectful black dollars will be held back
 - Said he will say this from the pulpit and if black citizens are called names, they won’t respond by throwing a brick or lighting a match but by withholding their money
- ***Curmilus Dancy***
 - Stated that the audit had been completed and he does not understand why anyone is still speaking on the subject
 - Stated the media and social websites are promoting division in the community
- ***Cooper Blackwell***
 - Stated he is a representative of the Rocky Mount Black Action Committee, which is a youth led movement here in Rocky Mount that led the protests on March 31
 - Stated that demands have been made and changes the group would like to be seen have been provided
 - Said he would like to know if the research has been completed regarding moving the confederate monument
 - Stated the Rocky Mount Black Action Committee is willing to offer their services to assist with improving racial equity in the City
- ***Bronson Williams***
 - Said we have seen a number of state emergencies called;
 - Said he believes since the black man and woman have come to America, there has never been a state of emergency to deal with white supremacy; said the real issues facing black and brown people have never been dealt with and urged the Mayor to look at ways to deal with some of these issues
 - Commented on how some social media posts make him feel and said he hopes elected officials will not get involved in posts requesting proof relative to utility write-offs
 - Said he hopes the City will continue with strong, bold and courageous leadership and do things that will establish equity
 - Said citizens should get involved and stay involved and not get caught up in the moment, but get caught up in the real work of changing, reshaping and transforming Rocky Mount

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

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

Mayor Roberson read a proclamation designating July 2020 as Parks and Recreation month in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Interim Parks and Recreation Director Joel Dunn. The Mayor joined Mr. Dunn for a photograph.

CONFEDERATE MONUMENT - UPDATE

Councilmember Knight requested that the City Manager provide an update relative to the removal of the confederate monument.

City Manager Rochelle Small-Toney stated there will be a closed session following today's meeting for discussion relative to two options. She added one option is for removal of the monument by a private group and secondly is the City's interest in removing the monument. She stated that both carry financial implications and her recommendation is that action to remove the monument be carried out within two weeks. She reported that the City has spoken with a contractor who is prepared to move the monument in the event the private group cannot remove the monument within two weeks.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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>NASH COUNTY</u>				
2018	1659	GARCIA, MARIA DE LOURDES EL RINCONCITO 4396 BOSEMAN RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	36.41 5.37	CITY VALUATION INT CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	41.78	
2019	1832	GARCIA, MARIA DE LOURDES EL RINCONCITO 4396 BOSEMAN RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	28.96 1.67	CITY VALUATION INT CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	30.63	
2019	2235	RUSSELL, MICHAEL ANTHONY PO BOX 101 TILLERY, NC 27887	34.87 2.01	CITY PERSONAL PROPERTY INT LOCATED OUSTIDE CITY LIMITS
		TOTAL RELEASE:	36.88	

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	1411	METRO BY T-MOBILE 1539 BENVENUE RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	134.95 7.76	CITY DUPLICATE BILL INT
		TOTAL RELEASE:	142.71	

C. FY 2019-2020 PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: (recommended for approval)

Consideration was given to the following Project Ordinance amendments:

- Project Ordinances:

- 1) Tar River Transit (\$5,613,802 - requires matching appropriations of \$439,892):
 - a. Urban Transit Operating Project - \$1,409,062;
 - b. Urban Transit Capital Project - \$949,740;
 - c. Transit System Planning Project - \$43,160;
 - d. Rural Transit Operating Project - \$2,666,200;
 - e. Rural Transit Capital Project - \$353,640;
 - f. Rural Transit System Feeder Project - \$192,000;
- 2) Community Development:
 - g. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Grant Project (\$526,640); and
 - h. HOME Investment Partnership Grant Project (\$467,205 - requires matching appropriation of \$50,000); and
- 3) Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant Program (\$121,771)

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the Consent Agenda be approved inclusive of approval of the tax releases and adoption of the following Ordinances, as set out above:

- a. **Ordinance No. O-2020-19** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2021 URBAN TRANSIT OPERATING PROJECT;**
- b. **Ordinance No. O-2020-20** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2021 URBAN TRANSIT CAPITAL PROJECT;**
- c. **Ordinance No. O-2020-21** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2021 TRANSIT SYSTEM PLANNING PROJECT;**
- d. **Ordinance No. O-2020-22** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2021 RURAL TRANSIT OPERATING PROJECT;**
- e. **Ordinance No. O-2020-23** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2021 RURAL TRANSIT CAPITAL PROJECT;**
- f. **Ordinance No. O-2020-24** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2021 RURAL TRANSIT SYSTEM FEEDER;**
- g. **Ordinance No. O-2020-25** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2020-2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ENTITLEMENT GRANT PROJECT;**
- h. **Ordinance No. O-2020-26** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/FY 2020-2021 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROJECT;**
- i. **Ordinance No. O-2020-27** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM GRANT.**

MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS

The City Council held discussion and voiced a desire to require face coverings in the City to be worn in public and when social distancing is not available. City Attorney Richard J. Rose explained that an Ordinance for such a requirement would need to be presented to Council at the next meeting for consideration.

2020-2021 PROPOSED ANNUAL ACTION PLAN/PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council was advised that in accordance with federal guidelines the City and the Down East HOME Consortium has prepared a Consolidated Plan for the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development and Planning Program. Cynthia Jones, the Director of Community & Business Development, provided an overview of the process.

It was explained that as part of the Consolidated Plan process, an Annual Action Plan for program year 2020-2021 has been prepared which outlines how the City intends to expend an estimated \$526,640 in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG), \$309,806 in CDBG

Coronavirus funds (CDBG-CV) and \$417,205 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds (HOME).

The Council was informed that a draft of the Proposed Annual Action Plan is available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning June 8, 2020 and ending on July 8 2020 and copies of the draft document will be available for review in the Rocky Mount Office of Community Development and the Edgecombe County Planning & Development Department and online on the City's website.

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to the 2020-2021 proposed annual action plan for the City of Rocky Mount and the Down East HOME Consortium and recognized the following individuals. A brief summary of comments are outlined below.

- ***Linda Brinson:***
 - Said she is Executive Director for United Community Ministries which has served the Rocky Mount area for about 44 years;
 - Stated UCM has four programs that serve the community:
 - community shelter – assisted about 196 individuals last year
 - soup kitchen - served over 7,000 last year
 - food pantry assists about 274 households
 - Basset Center – helped about 42 families last year
 - Stated the community shelter was not approved for Community Development Block Grant fund this year and she feels if funding was decreased by 10% for all programs then more programs could be funded
 - Stated United Community Ministries is a vital part of the community and is an essential service provider for the homeless and poor residents in Rocky Mount
 - Stated UCM has reduced staff and tightened its budget but has maintained the same level of services to the community
 - Stated that without appropriate funding UCM may reach the point of having to close one facility

- ***Dr. Lisa Nelson:***
 - Said she is here representing a group of concerned citizens who are interested in economic development for all of Rocky Mount;
 - Said they reviewed the Ratio Plan developed several years ago and the plan is a perfect example of how development has been siphoned to Nash County leaving out, the traditionally underserved, Edgecombe County;
 - Said an example is Thelonious Monk Park which not properly maintained;
 - Said one of the key concepts of the Ratio Plan was placemaking, the historic district, the art district, the entertainment district and the key to placemaking is enhancing quality of life, achieving economic goals and bringing dollars to the area;
 - Said a goal not mentioned in the plan is mitigation of gentrification;
 - Said the group proposes that with the Black Lives Matter recognition that is currently going on and the energy around the world exposing many of the negatives that have gone along with economic and racial discrimination, and in response to resources flowing from corporations, individuals and foundations for communities that have been affected by economic disparity to have restorative economics brought into those communities that a geographic area in Downtown Rocky Mount be identified as a black business matters zone to capitalize on that energy. She requested the City consider including funding for the proposal.

- **Troy Davis:**

- Said he took exception to the Mayor's recent comments relative to recruiting a real developer in the Downtown and said he would like to know what the Mayor considers a real developer;
- Stated he is a real developer and is spending \$3M of his money in the downtown area;
- Stated that the confederate monument needs to come down now

Councilmember Knight requested that the City Manager look at ways to provide funding for United Community Ministries in keeping with past years. Councilmember Blackwell confirmed that the desire is to fund \$30,000 to United Community Ministries and the Manager responded that she would look at shifting funding and report back to Council. She added that it may be possible to use CARES Act funding.

Councilmember Knight inquired if the City can provide technical support for a Black Lives Matter District within the City and also provide funding for this initiative. Mayor Roberson requested that this matter be added at the end of today's meeting.

BUDGET REVIEW - FY 2020-2021 ORDINANCE/FEES & CHARGES/POSITION CLASSIFICATION

Consideration was given to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Ordinance, amendments to the following fees and charges and a resolution approving revision to the position and classification plan:

1. Department of Public Works

- Policy No. X.8.5 Solid Waste Transfer Station Tipping Fee

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner and seconded by Councilmember Blackwell that the budget and resolutions be approved.

The City Manager provided an updated resolution for the staffing plan changes to the City Council adding the position of Director of Business & Collections Services at a pay grade of 27.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried by roll call vote that **Ordinance No. O-2020-28** entitled **CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT 2020-21 BUDGET ORDINANCE**; that **Resolution No. R-2020-19** entitled **RESOLUTION AMENDING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES FOR FEES AND CHARGES**; and that **Resolution No. R-2020-20** entitled **RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO POSITION CLASSIFICATION AND PAY PLAN**, as amended, be adopted.

The above ordinance and resolutions adopt the FY 2020-2021 budget maintaining the City's current tax rate at \$0.685 per \$100 valuation, amends certain fees and charges and amends City's Pay and Classification Plan to add the following new positions and assigned ranges:

New Positions:

Department/Division	Classification	Range	No. Positions
City Manager's Office/ Communications, Marketing & Public Relations	Public Relations Coordinator	18	1
Finance/Purchasing	Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) Coordinator	18	1

Central Services/Property Management	Building Maintenance/Repair Worker I	9	1
Central Services/Property Management	Electrician Helper	10	1
Central Services/Property Management	Building Maintenance/Repair Worker II	11	1
Business & Collections Services	Director of Business & Collections Services	27	1
Business & Collections Services	Customer Service Representative	10	1
Business & Collections Services	Key Account Representative	14	1
Business & Collections Services	Customer Service Manager	23	1

Councilmember Daughtridge voiced concern for the number of utility accounts eligible for cut off because it is unknown how long the moratorium will last. He questioned what time of year write-offs occur and the City Manager responded it is usually at the end of the fiscal year.

Councilmember Blackwell stated that the City Council has never voted on utility write-offs before and if the request is being made for a change in protocol there needs to be discussion.

FY 2019-2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/SELF-INSURANCE INTERNAL SERVICE FUND

Consideration was given to the following FY 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance Amendment that appropriates \$2,000,000 in the Self-Insurance Internal Service Fund to cover claims expensed during the current and prior fiscal years.

Councilmember Daughtridge requested that Council be informed of the balance of the self-insurance internal service fund.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote that **Ordinance No. O-2020-29** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2020 FOR SELF-INSURANCE INTERNAL SERVICE FUND** be adopted.

FY 2019-2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER

Consideration was given to the following FY 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance Amendment that appropriates \$251,260 to cover expenditures for operations at the Rocky Mount Event Center from April 2020 to June 2020. Council was advised that revenues are not currently available due to closure of the Event Center in compliance with the required response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried, by roll call vote, that **Ordinance No. O-2020-30** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FOR THE ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER** be adopted.

DOWNEAST HOME CONSORTIUM/JOINT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The City Council was advised that as a requirement of the HOME Program, the Down East HOME Consortium (DEHC) is required to submit a fully executed three-year renewal to HUD by June 30, 2020. Cynthia Jones, Director of Business & Community Development, advised the Council that the City will serve as lead entity and the existing agreement has

been reviewed and amended to exclude the following jurisdictions who elected to withdraw from the Consortium at the end of the qualification period (June 30, 2020): Nash County and the Towns of Nashville, Dortches and Tarboro. She stated the revised agreement has been disseminated to all nine (9) remaining DEHC participating jurisdictions for execution. The participating jurisdictions were listed as: Town of Conetoe, Edgecombe County, Town of Middlesex, Town of Pinetops, Town of Princeville, City of Rocky Mount, Town of Sharpsburg, Town of Spring Hope and Town of Whitakers.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the Down East HOME Consortium Joint Cooperative Agreement (**C-2020-13**) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

FY URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM ASSISTANCE POLICY, PROCUREMENT POLICY AND DISBURSEMENT POLICY AND POST-APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION

The City Council was advised that Council approval is required for the adoption of the City's Urgent Repair Program (URP20) Assistance Policy and Procurement and Disbursement Policy. Council was further advised that:

- that the Assistance Policy details the eligibility requirements for program participants, the selection process and the overall program process;
- The Procurement and Disbursement Policy details the bidding and payment process;
- Both policies have been reviewed and approved by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (HUD);
- The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) has approved \$100,000 for the City as part of the 2020-2021 cycle of the Urgent Repair program (URP20); and
- In addition, it is anticipated Council will approve an additional \$150,000 for the Urgent Repair Program for a total of \$250,000 for the 2020-2021 program cycle.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the Urgent Repair Program Assistance Policy; Procurement and Disbursement Policy; and Urgent Repair Program Post-Approval Documentation be approved; that the Mayor, City Manager and City Clerk be authorized to execute the policies and any required documentation related to the FY 2020-2021 Urgent Repair Program including the Post-Approval documentation on behalf of the City.

AWARD OF DUTY SIDEARMS AND BADGES

The City Council received a recommendation for the award of duty sidearms and badges to the following officers who will retire from the Rocky Mount Police Department:

- Police Sergeant Leslie Wayne Harrell - retirement date July 1, 2020 - 30 years of service; and
- Senior Police Officer Teresa Lassiter - retirement date July 1, 2020 - 14.5 years of service.

Council was advised that pursuant to City Policy, Officer Lassiter will pay \$350 for her duty sidearm due to retiring with less than 20 years of service.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the award of duty sidearms and badges be approved.

WATER ASSESSMENT CONTRACT

The City Council received a water assessment contract with Edna R. Roberson for water service to 1125 Freer Drive (PIN #385110374188). Council was advised that the contract provides for prepayment of water meter and capacity fees of \$265 and for the remaining water main and tap fees of \$4,000 to be assessed against the property.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that the assessment contract with Edna R. Roberson for water service to 1125 Freer Drive (**C-2020-14**) be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City. This contract will be recorded in the Office of the Nash County Register of Deeds.

Councilmember Blackwell requested that when water assessment contracts are presented to Council that they include information relative to fire districts and wards.

ANNEXATION NO. 317/762 VESTAL ROAD

The City Council received a petition from Tiffany Renee Branch Williams and spouse, Maurice Antonio Williams, for annexation of a non-contiguous parcel at 762 Vestal Road.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that receipt of the petition be acknowledged and that **Resolution No. R-2020-21** entitled **RESOLUTION ORDERING THE CITY CLERK TO INVESTIGATE THE SUFFICIENCY OF A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF A NON-CONTIGUOUS AREA INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT - ANNEXATION NO. 317 - 762 VESTAL ROAD** be adopted.
OPERATING AGREEMENT/DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS, LLC

The City Council was advised that the City's electric distribution system is directly connected to Duke Energy Progress' (DEP) transmission system at locations known as "point of delivery" (POD). A point of delivery was identified as the point where electrical power is metered and transferred from DEP's transmission system to Rocky Mount's distribution system. The Council considered an operating agreement with Duke Energy Progress, LLC to permit City employees to respond and operate DEP infrastructure under certain conditions outlined to allow for faster response time to power outages that are a result of issues with DEP's electrical equipment.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the operating agreement with Duke Energy Progress, LLC (**C-2020-15**) be

approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the same 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-2020-16**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bullock, seconded by Councilmember Daughtride and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2020-22** entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY AT ELECTRONIC AUCTION** be adopted.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried by roll call vote that Jeffrey Cooper be appointed to the Ward 3 position on the Tree Board, contingent upon receipt of a personal history form. The term will expire on June 30, 2020 and the new appointment will be from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote that Michael Mosley be appointed to the Ward 7 vacancy on the Workforce Housing Advisory Commission, contingent upon receipt of a personal history form.

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

PUBLIC FACE COVERINGS/COVID-19 (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

The City Council held discussion relative to a desire to require face coverings in public spaces in the City where social distancing is not available. The City Attorney advised that an Ordinance would need to be prepared for consideration at the next meeting. By consensus, it was agreed that an ordinance be prepared requiring the wearing of face coverings in public places in the City for consideration at the July 13, 2020 meeting.

DOWNTOWN BLACK BUSINESS DISTRICT (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the City provide technical support and pre-planning funding of between \$25,000 and \$50,000 to subsidize the planning and pre-development of a Downtown Black Business District. It was noted that the City Manager will bring a report to Council at the next meeting to advise them of details.

CLOSED SESSION (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

City Attorney Richard J. Rose requested a closed session relative to items concerning attorney-client privilege as follows:

- 1) American Entertainers, d/b/a Gentleman's Playground; and
- 2) Harold Cox vs. Police Officer Michael Lamm, former Police Chief James Moore, former interim Police Chief Willie Williams and Police Chief George Robinson

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote that the City Council enter into closed session at 5:39 p.m. The minutes of the closed session shall be placed on file as **ESM-555** at the end of Minute Book No. 37 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor convened the City in regular session at 6:47 p.m. and there being no further business for regular session, adjourned the meeting.


Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk