

September 28, 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; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist\*\*; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations\*\*; Jeffery Walston, Human Relations Specialist\*\*; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief\*\*, Brad Kerr, Public Works Director\*\*; Donald Perry, Assistant City Engineer - Water Resources\*\*; Scott Miles, Stormwater Engineer; Chris Beschler, Director of Energy Resources; Darryl Strother, Electrical Distribution Superintendent\*\*; Bradley Walters, Gas Distribution Manager\*\*; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

The following members of the Rocky Mount Fire Department were also in attendance\*\*: Blaise Harris, Trip Bunn, William Hale, Darvin Moore and Mike Roupp.

*\*\*present as required*

Some staff members participated via MS Teams.

Security Officer: Scoey Lewis, Police Corporal.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and requested a moment of silence for individual prayer.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the minutes of a regular scheduled meeting of the City Council held August 24, 2020 and of an emergency called meeting held August 27, 2020, (recessed and reconvened on August 28, 2020), be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

#### **AMENDMENT TO AGENDA (ADDED IN OPEN MEETING)**

Mayor Roberson requested that the agenda be amended to add consideration of:

- Project Ordinance appropriating Coronavirus Relief funds (\$793,141) to the Emergency Management Funds (distributions from Edgecombe and Nash Counties);
- Appointments to the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees; and
- Closed Session (personnel).

There were no objections to the amendment to the agenda.

**COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER**

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

- Congratulated the City's Finance Department for receiving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 from the Government Finance Officers Association;
- Announced that the City's Parks and Recreation Department recently received a \$350,000 grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund that will go toward renovations for the Battle Park Master Plan. She added that Rocky Mount's submission was the number one scoring project out of sixty-six applications from across the state and citizens can expect to see trail renovations, pier replacement, a forestry management program and nature/interpretive learning environments as part of the renovation;
- Reported that in addition to the Trust Fund grant, the Division of Water Resources of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality recently awarded a \$199,873 grant for Phase 1 of the Battle Park Renovation Project. She stated this grant will provide financial assistance to renovate approximately 8,760 linear feet of greenway and other associated recreational facilities, as well as to construct two rain gardens and congratulated the Director and Parks and Recreation staff on receiving this grant;
- Stated that although the Imperial Centre is closed to the public, the public can take advantage of a variety of free virtual arts programs including yoga, drawing and painting. Visit [rockymountnc.gov](http://rockymountnc.gov) and [imperialcentre.org](http://imperialcentre.org) for more information;
- Announced that a city-wide cleanup effort has been scheduled for the week of October 11<sup>th</sup> and all week-long residents are encouraged to place any waste, loose leaf or bulk items, with the exception of hazard waste materials, on the curb for City collection. This collection is in addition to regular and bulk pick up schedules. Also, a community wide cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and residents are welcome to come out and clean up the community with City officials and staff. Trash pickup equipment, protective vest and gloves will be provided by Keep America Beautiful and the City of Rocky Mount. All COVID-19 social distancing and mask coverings will be enforced;
- Reported that OIC continues to hold COVID-19 testing sites at the Rocky Mount Event Center. Those tested will need to bring their photo ID and insurance cards. Insurance is not required for testing. Testing days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration can be performed prior to arrival by logging on to [oicrmhub.com](http://oicrmhub.com). Call 252-210-9856 for more information;
- Reminded all that there are two days left to send in 2020 Census forms. This Wednesday, September 30, is the last day to complete forms. The Census will determine funding for housing programs, schools, hospitals, economic development and much more in our community. Response can be made online, by phone or by mail. For more information or to respond visit [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).

Councilmember Knight stated there have been recent public statements that Rocky Mount is not a well-run City and requested that the City Manager make comment relative to the award received by the Finance Department for 26 years of financial stability.

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney reported that the award is a very distinguished award only bestowed to local governments that meet the financial standards for the National Government Finance Officers Association and this is an award for the City's Comprehensive Annual

Financial Report (CAFER) that is required annually. She added this award is not easy to come by and the City is fiscally sound.

Councilmember Daughtridge stated he is glad to hear about the October 17<sup>th</sup> clean up and hope all available citizens can participate. He stated he sent the Manager an email following the last Council meeting requesting information. He thanked Ms. Small-Toney for sending him the financial information requested but said he did not receive requested information about the City's fund balance. The City Manager responded that staff has provided that information to her today, but she has had trouble copying it to send to all Councilmembers.

Councilmember Daughtridge added that he has not yet received a response to his request for information relative to fund transfers. He noted he is aware that the Manager has the authority to transfer funds but added he would still like to have an accounting of transfers and would like to receive information relative to unpaid property taxes. Mr. Daughtridge stated he is also aware that a number of retirements are coming up. Ms. Small-Toney stated the document to which she has just referred contains information relative to all requests, including crime information, with the exception of fund transfers.

Ms. Small-Toney stated she always tries to make Council aware of any administrative issues of which they need to be made aware. She said fund transfers are an internal process. She said Councilmembers are welcome to come in to review information but to assemble each fund transfer form would be a mighty task, is an administrative process and not in the purview of Council's policy-making responsibilities. She said staff would be happy to answer any questions he may have. She said responses to his other requests are included in the memo.

Ms. Small-Toney stated she has offered to all Council the invitation to attend a CompStat meeting to get a feel for what the Police Command staff look at though it is not the intent that this be a regular meeting.

The Mayor requested that the Council move ahead with the regular meeting.

#### **DISABILITY AWARENESS EMPLOYMENT MONTH**

The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring October 2020 as Disability Awareness Employment Month to Human Relations Director Archie Jones and Human Relations Specialist Jeffery Walston. The Mayor and City Manager joined Mr. Jones and Mr. Walston for a photograph.

#### **PUBLIC POWER AND PUBLIC NATURAL GAS WEEK**

The Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming October 4-10, 2020 as Public Power and Public Natural Gas Week and presented the proclamation to Director of Energy Resources Chris Beschler and Electrical Distribution Superintendent Darryl Strother and Gas Distribution Manager Bradley Walters. Mayor Roberson and the City Manager joined Energy Resources staff for a photograph.

**FIRE PREVENTION MONTH**

Mayor Roberson read a proclamation proclaiming October 2020 as Fire Prevention Month in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Fire Chief Corey Mercer and members of the Rocky Mount Fire Department. The Mayor and City Manager joined members of the Fire Department for a photograph.

**STORMWATER AWARENESS WEEK**

The Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming October 18 - 24, 2020 as Stormwater Awareness Week in the City of Rocky Mount and presented the proclamation to Public Works Director Brad Kerr, Assistant City Engineer - Water Resources Donald Perry and Stormwater Engineer Scott Miles. The Mayor and City Manager joined the Public Works employees for a photograph.

**PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor opened the meeting for petitions from the public and outlined guidelines for public petitions. He recognized the following individuals for public comment and a summary of comments is outlined below:

- ***Nehemiah Smith, Jr.***
  - Said he understands there are some who feign ignorance when it comes to the continued deteriorating plight of black people in America;
  - Said the recent decision by a Kentucky Grand Jury to not bring charges against the policeman who murdered Briana Taylor further highlights the Black Lives Matter Movement and the need to end racism;
  - Said he has never played the race card;
  - Said he does not blame white people for the plight of Black people in America and read a quote by John Greenleaf Whitaker;
  - Said when events like the one wherein a Black citizen trying to take her children to daycare was tased and handcuffed in front of them by a White State Trooper we should be disturbed by the inhumanity of it;
  - Said Black lives mattering and ending racism in our lifetime is paramount and he is willing to get in good trouble to see it end
  
- ***Bronson Williams***
  - Said the City through a press release provided data that it was a victim of a ransomware attack and explained his understanding of such attack;
  - Voiced concerned that a Nashville man closely associated with WHIG TV has shared that he has proof made available because of the attack;
  - Said when a person has ransomware the whole idea is to keep the data until it is paid for and said if data is available on the internet it serves no purpose unless this person or his associates were perhaps involved in the attack and suggested that during the investigation this man be investigated;
  - Said as the City continues to move forward there is a lot of positive things happening and encouraged the City to continue to put out press releases to make people aware of things that are happening;
  - He said when events have happened Rocky Mount has always built back better, and he is excited to be in the City and to continue to see the great investment happening in the community;
  - Said when looking at the report online it says Downtown is an area of interest because it is fragile and voiced support for investment in the Downtown

- ***Johnny Cunningham***
  - Said he remembers the meetings opening with prayer and questioned why prayer has been replaced with a moment of silence;
  - Said he thinks if someone from the public makes comments that are untrue that a legal process should be put in place to prevent the public from being able to make false statements;
  - Said he feels all have done something they would change if they could;
  - He said he does not care what color someone is or who they are but if someone is going to accuse the Council or anyone of something, they should have undisputable proof and the City Council does not deserve to be attacked
  
- ***Seth Henry Saeugling***
  - Said he is a citizen of Rocky Mount and works here;
  - Thanked the City Council and Mayor for their public service and acknowledged and thanked all public servants;
  - Asked the Council to do all in their power to hold the State Trooper's office accountable for the use of excessive force against a Rocky Mount resident on September 24;
  - Said Rocky Mount resident Ty Jones was the victim of brutal police violence, excessive force and abuse of power at the hand of State Trooper J. M. Phillips;
  - Asked the Council to file a formal complaint with the State Bureau of investigation;
  - Said Ms. Jones was pulled over on Winstead Avenue while driving her children to daycare; added she is a small woman at barely 170 lbs. was tased, tackled to the ground, her head split open, bleeding, her hand was split open and holes gouged in her hand and head where taser nodes burned off and dug away the skin; she has severe bruising in her chest, back and vocal area from the State Trooper driving his body weight into her while she lay on her back and her lips and face were bruised;
  - Said he is deeply concerned that this act could happen in our community and that we all work together to hold any agency accountable when there is misconduct;
  - Encouraged Council to look into Campaign Zero which is a comprehensive set of 10 policies that local Police Departments can adopt to help reduce Police violence and excessive force

Mr. Saeugling provided the Mayor and Council with a folder containing a statement from Ms. Jones, images of injuries from the attack and information about policies Police Departments can use to prevent instances of excessive force.

Councilmember Knight requested that the City Manager involve the City's Human Relations Department and also verify the information on social media through the City's Police Department or State Highway Patrol and added that the Rocky Mount City Council does not condone use of excessive force. He stated Council would like to have more information.

The City Manager said she would ask Chief Robinson to obtain information.

Councilmember Blackwell said the Council has a responsibility and there is a culture in Rocky Mount of valuing all lives. He said he read the summary but does not know what happened. He added this was disturbing and unless Ms. Jones was shooting at the Officer, he does not understand how this could have happened. Said he hopes as a City we have humanity leading us in our enforcement policies and procedures and want

other law enforcement entities to recognize the Rocky Mount City Council has a heightened enlightenment and will not tolerate violent behavior against our citizens.

Mayor Roberson voiced agreement and noted the Manager has indicated the matter will be looked into.

o ***Morrie Minges***

- Said her Mom and Dad told her if any law enforcement person stopped her for any reason, she should do what she was told and not try to think she is better than the officer;
- Suggested all give themselves self love and the love we give to our friends; said we are aware of other's flaws and should be aware of our own flaws but should also appreciate how those imperfections are a part of us and care, trust and support ourselves;
- Said it would be nice if people would not judge others by the color of their skin;
- Said she worries that it does not seem the City Council works together, and she cannot understand how Councilmembers vote on an item when they have personal knowledge of the item or are related to someone involved personally;
- Said the Council seems to vote willy nilly instead of stopping and thinking;
- Asked why Rocky Mount builders and surrounding area builders did not have a say on building the Downtown hotel/garage; asked why someone about whom not much was known would be chosen and questioned why the choice was for a private/public building adding that private hotels on 64 near the hospital seem to be doing pretty good;
- Added that she received a notice from the City saying she needed to cut her grass, or they would cut it and charge her; she said, "What about Ebony and Ivory?"

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney stated at the last public comment period there were some disparaging comments about one of the City's residents, Ms. Virginia Knight, as well as her late husband concerning their utility payment history. She asked Interim Director of Business and Collections Services Latasha Hall to provide an account, without disclosing too much about the account itself, and said she feels it is necessary to clear the air and make sure the community understands that Ms. Knight and her deceased husband have always been in good standing with their utility bills.

Ms. Hall stated she has received express permission to share information and that the account of the Knight's is not an account for which no payments had been made for years. She said payments were made on the account and, though many customers have late payments, all payments were made, and fees assessed accordingly. She added that the account for Ms. Virginia Knight is paid accordingly and is in good standing. She said the Knights have not been on any type of list indicating the accounts should not be paid as long as she has worked for the City and those accounts have been paid accordingly.

Ms. Small-Toney in response to a statement made during the public petitions portion of the meeting stated the purpose of the City Attorney is to advise Councilmembers if they should need to recuse themselves from voting on a particular item. She said, "this is not a willy nilly operation" and this Council is obligated to vote on issues that are before them and it is the City Attorney who will ensure that those voting have a right and privilege to vote. She said she wants to make

sure the public knows those restrictions are followed if necessary and Council is here to vote in accordance with what they have been sworn to do.

**AWARD OF DUTY SIDEARM AND BADGE**

The City Council received a recommendation for the award of duty sidearm and badge to Captain Michael A. Whitley who retired from the Rocky Mount Police Department with 30 years of service on September 1, 2020.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the award of duty sidearm and badge be approved.

**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>
<b><u>EDGECOMBE COUNTY</u></b>				
2020	413	BROWN, MILDRED CARROLL 1101 STOKES ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	48.50 4.85	CITY PEN PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>53.35</b>	
2020	655	CARDTRONICS USA INC 1235 NORTH LOOP WEST, SUITE 205 HOUSTON, TX 77008	2.65	PEN LATE LIST REMOVAL
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>2.65</b>	
2020	620	VIASAT INC PO BOX 80615 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46280	4.17	PEN LATE LIST REMOVAL
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>4.17</b>	
2020	670	YOUNG'S TRUCK CENTER INC DBA ADVANTAGE TRUCK LEASING PO BOX 560007 CHARLOTTE, NC 28256	46.23	PEN LATE LIST REMOVAL
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>46.23</b>	
<b><u>NASH COUNTY</u></b>				
2020	4	KING, ANTHONY 7524 SHALLINGTON MILL RD MACCLESFIELD, NC 27852	40.00	DOG OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>40.00</b>	
2020	1986	OPENING DOORS REAL ESTATE LLC SLEDGE, LATASHA PO BOX 8667 ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	7.16	CITY VALUATION CORRECTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>7.16</b>	

**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>
<b><u>EDGEcombe COUNTY</u></b>					
2020	6271	BELLAMY, ERVIN L BELLAMY, VINCET A 909 DAUGHTRIDGE ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	171.25	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>171.25</b>		
2020	8617	COUNCIL, GERTIE R LOT 15, BLK G D T POWELL & S ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	205.62	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>205.62</b>		
2020	5804	JOHNSON, MICHELLE A 5 BLK F HARGROVE ESTATES ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	202.84	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>202.84</b>		
2020	21886	RICHARDSON, JAMES EDWARD LOT 41, HILLSDALE S/D ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	171.25	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>171.25</b>		
2020	22381	SMITH, JEAN T 1565 TADLOCK AVE ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	247.37	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>247.37</b>		
2020	22702	STANBACK, ANNIE LASCOE LT 1 BLK A FOREST RIDGE ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27802	227.65	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>227.65</b>		
2020	22394	WALLACE, MARY L 1512 HARPER ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	171.25	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>171.25</b>		
2020	8006	WILLIAMS, LEROY PT LT 2 BLK F OAKWOOD PARK ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	272.64	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>272.64</b>		
<b><u>NASH COUNTY</u></b>					
2020	1438	ALL IN HAULING LLC 1723 HUNTERBROOK LN ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	226.06	CITY	PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>226.06</b>		
2020	9421	ANTHONY, DAZELL HLL 105 CASTLEBURY CT ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	308.25	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
		<b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	<b>308.25</b>		



2020	2022	JOYNER KEENY & ASSOCIATES C/O NILS W JOYNER JR PO BOX 7533 ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	109.21	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
			<b>109.21</b>		
2020	1739	WHEELLESS, BENJAMIN 3408 WEATHERSTONE DR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	183.03	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
			<b>183.03</b>		

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the tax releases and/or refunds be acknowledged and approved as recommended.

**FY 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/REPLACEMENT OF LEMON LAW VEHICLE**

The City Council was advised that the City purchased a Ford Explorer for use by Water & Sewer Services in July 2019 and that the vehicles experienced several maintenance problems eventually leading to it being deemed a "lemon" in accordance with applicable North Carolina law. It was explained that the City returned the vehicle to the manufacturer and received a settlement payment from the manufacturer of \$27,261. The Council was further advised that a replacement vehicle was quoted through State Contract at a cost of \$31,136.

Consideration was given to the following FY 2020-2021 Budget Ordinance Amendment that appropriates \$31,136 (settlement proceeds of \$27,261 plus appropriation from Sewer Fund reserves of \$3,875).

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Ordinance No. O-2020-35** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 FOR REPLACEMENT OF LEMON LAW VEHICLE** be adopted.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF OPTION TO PURCHASE EDGECOMBE GENCO PROPERTY**

The City Council was provided with a resolution providing for the acquisition of an option to purchase the Edgcombe Genco property at a fee of \$45,000 which includes reimbursement to the Carolinas Gateway Partnership of \$20,000 and an additional \$25,000 for an extended option for an additional six-month period. It was explained at the total option fee will be credited against the purchase price for the property, in the event the option is exercised. If approved, the City Clerk shall be directed to publish notice of a public hearing on the appropriation for October 12, 2020.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Resolution No. R-2020-31** entitled **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF AN OPTION TO PURCHASE THE EDGECOMBE GENCO PROPERTY** be adopted.

**PROJECT ORDINANCE/CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) PROJECT (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)**

The City Council received a project ordinance appropriating \$793,141 to the Emergency Management Fund as awarded to the City from Edgecombe and Nash Counties under the provisions of Senate Law 2020-80 which allocates funds provided from the United States Department of Treasury under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for eligible expenses incurred by the City in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Councilmember Daughtridge questioned the breakdown of the figure by county but it was not known.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Bullock and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Ordinance No. O-2020-36** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) PROJECT** be adopted.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)**

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the following appointments be approved:

- **Animal Care and Control Advisory Board** (three-year term expires June 30, 2023):
  - Re-appoint Ellen F. Matthews (Ward 6)
- **Board of Adjustment** (three-year term expires June 30, 2023):
  - Re-appoint Mark Osterhout (Ward 6; moved from Ward 4 to Ward 6)
- **Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities** (two-year term expires June 30, 2022)
  - Appoint Johnnie McRae, Jr.
- **Planning Board** (three-year term expires June 30, 2023)
  - Re-appoint Matthew P. Sperati
- **Utility Service Review Board** (four-year term expires June 30, 2024)
  - Re-appoint Marletha Muhammad (Ward 6; moved from Ward 4 to Ward 6)

Councilmember Knight stated that a discussion needs to be held relative to an existing appointment because this particular person has slandered the City, City Manager and a majority of the Councilmembers and a decision needs to be made as to whether this person represents the City's image and the vision of the City Council.

**CLOSED SESSION (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)**

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney requested a closed session relative to matters concerning personnel.

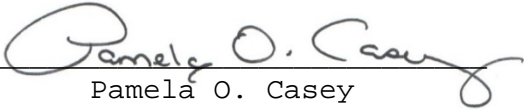
Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays; the vote for Councilmember Walker was recorded in the affirmative pursuant to NCGS 160A-75) that the City Council enter into closed session at 5:57 p.m. The minutes of the closed session shall be placed on file as **ESM-**

563 at the end of Minute Book No. 37 upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

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**REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Miller and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the meeting adjourn at 6:14 p.m.

  
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Pamela O. Casey  
City Clerk