

November 22, 2021

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.

NOTE: Participation limited due to Governor Roy Cooper's Executive Order relative to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)

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; Elton Daniels, Assistant City Manager; Jessie Nunery, Interim Director of Communications and Marketing; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Latasha Hall, Director of Business and Collections Services; Joel Dunn, Parks and Recreation Director; Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Abdul Baloch, Chief Internal Auditor; Chris Beschler, Director of Energy Resources; Ken Hunter, Assistant to the City Manager for Budget and Evaluation; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Robert Hassell, Police Chief; Brad Kerr, Public Works Director; Keyana Walston, Program Manager-Management Analyst; Brenton Bent, Water Resources Director; Gregory Cotten, Chief Technology Officer; Tracey Drewery, Assistant Fire Chief; Charles Bunn, III, Battalion Chief; Will Deaton, Development Services; Michael Roupp, Assistant Chief of Operations; Cornelia McGee, Community Development Administrator; Darvin Moore, Division Chief; A.B. Bangura, Finance Consultant (The Robert Bobb Group); and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officers: Senior Police Officer, Shawn Battle, and Police Sergeant, Keith Miller.

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

APPROVAL OF/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA (ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

Mayor Roberson stated it has been requested that a closed session be added to today's agenda for personnel matters. City Attorney Richard J. Rose requested that matters involving economic development and attorney-client privilege also be added to the closed session.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the agenda be amended, as requested. Mayor Roberson stated the closed session will be added at the end of today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell, and unanimously carried that the minutes of a regular scheduled Committee of the Whole Meeting held October 11, 2021; the minutes a regular scheduled City Council Meeting held October 11, 2021; and minutes

of a Special Called Committee of the Whole meeting held October 18, 2021, be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

*Councilmember Walker arrived**

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell, and unanimously carried that the minutes be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

The minutes of the regular scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting held October 11, 2021, and Special Called Committee of the Whole meeting held October 18, 2021, are below:

MINUTES OF A REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021, IN THE GEORGE W. DUDLEY CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE FREDERICK E. TURNAGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING WITH MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARD JOYNER PRESIDING:

NOTE: Participation limited relative to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Caroline Mackie, Poyner Spruill
 Bill Gilkeson, Demographer
 Lois Watkins

 Security Officers: Stephen Walker and
 and Shawn Battle

STAFF PRESENT:

Rochelle D. Small-Toney
 Pamela O. Casey
 Jessie Nunery
 Mark Adcox
 Robin Cox
 Robert Hassell
 Brenton Bent
 Archie Jones
 Ken Hunter
 Elton Daniels
 Joel Dunn
 Corey Mercer
 Greg Cotten
 Mike Roupp
 Tracey Drewery
 Darvin Moore
 Brad Kerr
 Abdul Baloch
 Kena Cofield-Jones
 Keyana Walston
 Latasha Hall
 Chase Norwood
 Brenton Bent
 Jayson Dawkins
 Keyana Walston
 Richard J. Rose

OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Richard Joyner called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and called on City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney.

The City Manager reported the first item on today's agenda is discussion relative to a landscaping contract with Precision Cut Landscaping & Lawn Care. She said this item has been deferred for several meetings and staff is prepared to answer any questions Council may have. She called on Parks and Recreation Director, Joel Dunn, for a presentation.

1. LANDSCAPING CONTRACT - Joel Dunn

Parks and Recreation Director, Joel Dunn, told the City Council he is here today to present information relative to recommended landscaping contracts for grounds maintenance at City facilities. Council was informed that the Parks and Recreation Department has assisted in overseeing these contracts for the past five (5) years. Mr. Dunn stated that due to the amount of property requiring maintenance it was determined that some properties would be contracted out to effectively manage all locations. He added that contracting of properties allows staff to more heavily concentrate on the parks system and provide a high level of service and grounds maintenance. He added that contracts are written specifically to ensure proper supervision and completion of tasks at properties that are contracted out to ensure a high level of service.

Mr. Dunn presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining City facilities, the current setup for parks maintenance, the current setup for contracted properties including the benefits of utilizing a contractor for maintenance of some properties. He explained the formal bids and added staff recommends award of the bids and believes the mix of in-house property maintenance and contracted property maintenance allows staff and contractors to better provide effective and efficient service that results in well-manicured parks and facility properties. The City Council was advised there are no plans to add additional Parks and Recreation staff in FY 2022; however, if determinations are made that staff and equipment can be added to address parks that are contracted out, there is language in the standard terms and conditions to allow the City to end the contracts.

Mr. Dunn responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Councilmember Blackwell stated that he is not questioning the work being done by contractors adding he thinks the City does a better job than most, though he sees room for improvement. He said while he can agree with a dual approach and for staff to perform certain tasks and others to be contracted out, he is concerned that the skill level of the contractors seems to exceed that of City staff. He questioned if efforts are being made to build the skill level of City staff and what inhibits City staff from being competent and excelling in those areas so the City can have pride and capacity within its own teams to be able to take care of City properties. Mr. Blackwell added when looking at rights of way with major highways, such as the exits off of Highway 64 onto Atlantic Avenue and Raleigh Boulevard he does not feel there is equitable concentration because those areas do not look like the exits off Winstead Avenue, Sunset Avenue and Church Street. He said it appears there is opportunity to contract with someone to focus on those particular areas. Mr. Blackwell added that he does not feel there is concentration of beautification Downtown. He questioned if Parks and Recreation has adequate equipment to do what needs to be done to make City facilities beautiful and said he would be in support of creating pathways for team members for licensing/certification. He suggested creating a special events setup team. He said if the City is serious about having a more robust tourist economy it has to take a look at how it brings to the public square those duties and support systems. He said staff does a great job and he is not critical of the work being done but said he is concerned about them being stretched and pulled.

Councilmember Blackwell questioned if the proposed contract can be reduced from a three-year term to a shorter term to allow the management teams to look at how to transform their approach to maintaining publicly owned properties adding a desire for a plan to be presented to the Council in January.

Mr. Dunn reported that the City Manager's Office has been great about providing equipment. He added that the City is currently working

on CIP preparation, and it is a priority to ensure adequate equipment is available. He added that the Department provides opportunities for staff to receive supervisory training and specific certifications and regularly works to send staff who show interest to schools or workshops. He told the City Council that City staff are equipped to do the work that is being contracted out but the assistance from contractors helps to keep the City's high-profile parks and large facilities in better condition and contractors provide assistance in high traffic areas.

Mr. Dunn reported that the overpasses mentioned are not under the Parks and Recreation purview but fall under Public Works. He stated that effort is made to keep the Downtown, Douglas Block and Main Street beautiful. The Parks and Recreation Director added that the Department has considered a special event setup team but decided not to move forward however it is something that can be considered.

Councilmember Daughtridge said it is his opinion that all the City's exits look pretty bad and there is room for improvement. He added he works Downtown and often rides around and has noticed City employees working in the Downtown watering flowers and blowing off sidewalks while other parts of the City do not get that attention. He said he is interested in keeping all of the City beautiful. He added he is glad the City has a horticulturist on staff. He stated he feels consideration needs to be given to the equipment small businesses have to invest in when contracts are approved because that is not inexpensive. He asked Mr. Dunn to clarify the amount that would be needed for the City to start its own crew and the response was \$195,000. Mr. Daughtridge stated he remembers seeing on the agenda that Precision Cut is a MWBE business which is a priority of the City Council adding he is in favor of awarding a three-year contract, as recommended.

The Mayor Pro Tem thanked Mr. Dunn for his presentation and said the dual process seems the best fit but questioned how the City can leverage it so that employees can feel good about it and not feel they are being overlooked for what they do daily. Mr. Dunn responded that he has had one on one meetings with staff in Parks maintenance and the majority of staff understand the need and support the dual process. He added that Parks maintenance staff does an outstanding job and added he will make a concentrated effort to ensure staff is aware of training and development opportunities.

Councilmember Blackwell thanked Councilmember Daughtridge for reminding the Council about Precision Cut's MWBE participation and said he would like to hear from the company about how this work advances their efforts in creating diversity and inclusion in the City. He voiced support for employing a horticulturist on staff and questioned how this skill set is being transferred to the entire organization.

Mr. Blackwell said that the choice of flowers and placement for City Hall make it look beautiful and it would be wonderful to see this throughout all City properties. He reiterated a desire to see Parks and Recreation transformed and is concerned about what he has heard from multiple staff members about clear delineation of duties.

Councilmember Knight said he is glad to see the City is supporting MWBE businesses but does not want to see anything taken from City employees' opportunities for growth, morale, better equipment, and better salaries. He voiced approval of having a horticulturist on staff but questioned the role of that position to make the City look better adding he wants to see a higher level of beautification across the City.

Discussion continued and the City Manager said that she has been listening intently and the suggested changes will have a significant impact on the budget. She suggested staff come back to Council early in 2022 for a discussion about how to build the requirements suggested into next year's budget if revenues can support them. She added the discussion is timely because there is a desire for employee training and advancement across the City departments and there is a proposed plan for

steps towards progression/licensing/certification for employees. She said Council has recently been advised that the gateway signs are in place in an effort to start a serious beautification plan for these areas of the City.

Councilmember Miller voiced her desire that a beautification plan include public information relative to reducing litter adding that individuals are personally responsible for litter control, and we can see the enemy and it is us.

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney supported a strong public information program adding that enforcement has been attempted but is not that effective. She said it is really about civic pride and encouraged all to pick up after themselves and properly dispose of litter.

The City Manager told the City Council that before January they will be apprised of a new pay and classification plan that will address some of the concerns mentioned about how employees can advance in the organization. She added that some of the recommendations made today would have a substantial impact on the budget. She recommended approval of the three-year landscape maintenance contract adding if the City is in a position to amend the contract before three years it can be re-evaluated. Councilmembers Blackwell and Knight made further comments.

The City Manager stated that there is a slowdown in the supply chain currently and staff does not have sufficient equipment to take on the full responsibility of landscape maintenance. She said equipment has been ordered and staff has been advised it will be about 18 months or more before it is received. She said the delay in the supply chain affects everyone not just Rocky Mount. She said putting in place a plan without the equipment to work the plan would be difficult, but staff does want to make sure that employees have sufficient licensing and training and thinks that the recommendations of Council will be reflected in the new pay and classification plan.

Councilmember Blackwell stated 18 months from today is mid-2023 and it does not take that long to get a strategy together and start hiring people. Ms. Small-Toney responded that she is saying not only are employees needed but also equipment. Mr. Blackwell asked the Manager if she is able to provide the Council with a list of equipment deficits and the cost for a revision of the vision of Council, so the City does not have to depend on contractors to provide the core beautification of the City's central properties. He said he is not voicing displeasure of what staff is doing but the City should primarily be responsible for these tasks and only rely on contractors to enhance skill gaps. He said his desire is to prioritize having leadership and management systems in place to accomplish this. He asked for clarification that the Council is being asked to approve a three-year landscape maintenance plan at this time and that the Manager is recommending providing a plan in January 2022 that will not be implemented until year four (4). Ms. Small-Toney confirmed that she is recommending approval of the three-year contract as a first step due to the difficulty in receiving equipment and the need to determine the cost of the higher level of internal service recommended by Council. She said she thinks staff can get started in January and will take direction from the Council as to how to proceed.

Ms. Small-Toney confirmed that the direction of Council is to place consideration of the three-year landscape maintenance contract on the next City Council agenda for consideration and to bring a plan to Council in January 2022 that addresses compensation, licensing/certification, and increasing equipment inventory to provide a higher level of internal service along with estimated costs in order to receive Council feedback and direction. She said it may be possible to start some things before the new year.

Councilmember Blackwell asked for clarification that the Manager is recommending approval of the three-year landscape maintenance contract

with the possibility of amending the contract mid-stream or implementing a new vision in year four. The City Manager confirmed she is recommending approval of the three-year contract adding that the contract allows for amendment to reduce the level of service by the contractor in order to allow for more a greater level of internal service.

The Mayor Pro Tem asked the Manager to communicate with Public Works staff about a higher level of beautification, as mentioned, and thanked Council for the discussion.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. *The City Manager stated she understands the direction from Council to be to place consideration of the landscaping contract on the next City Council agenda for consideration and there were no objections.*

2. UNITY CEMETERY - Rochelle D. Small-Toney

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney advised the City Council that at the August 9, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting, she and Lois Watkins, Project Consultant, presented a recommendation for appointments to the Unity Cemetery Executive Steering Committee. She stated Council has not taken official action relative to the appointments and had stated they would send additional names to the Manager for consideration. She added that several names have been received and this item is on today's agenda in order to receive direction from Council to:

- 1) Revise or add to the recommended committee names previously provided;
- 2) Request applications from the public for Council consideration; or
- 3) Provide for two to three appointments to be made by the Mayor and each Councilmember.

The Council was provided with the recommended appointees to the Unity Cemetery Restoration & Preservation Board of Directors.

Ms. Small-Toney stated that Ms. Watkins is present to make comment or answer any questions Councilmembers may have. She added that consideration for today is about the cemetery board directorship and the way in which Council wishes to move forward with the seating of members. She said based on Council discussion, work moved forward to interview those in the community who had interest in the board and recommendations were brought to the Council for board membership; however, it was the desire of the Council to table discussion at that time.

The City Manager reported that the matter is before the Council today for consideration of three different scenarios for appointments to the board. She added that good things have been happening and Ms. Watkins, with assistance from staff, has established a work room at the Imperial Centre for Unity Cemetery activities and they have organized a great deal of information obtained from Stokes Mortuary (approximately 17 file cabinets and a large number of boxes). Ms. Small-Toney added that staff is currently looking at software programs and working with two experienced consultants relative to records preservation and another local person who is very knowledgeable of the burial sites at Unity Cemetery. She reported that a surveyor is also working to determine the boundaries of the cemetery which will be important for Council to know when it is time to discuss transfer or acquisition of the cemetery because little can or should be physically done at the site before the City has ownership.

The City Manager said staff is seeking Council's direction in terms of establishment of the Unity Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Board of Directors. She outlined the options as: 1) accept the membership recommendations previously provided; 2) amend the membership recommendations (some additional names have been provided); or 3) start over with the Mayor and Councilmembers making two or three appointments

each (two appointments each = total membership of 16; three appointments each = total membership of 24).

Mayor Pro Tem Joyner reminded the Council time needs to be allowed for discussion relative to crime statistics and redistricting and asked for comments to be kept short.

Councilmember Miller questioned the term of board members if option 1 is selected. City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney noted that the names of the recommended board members are included in the COW agenda packet and called on Ms. Watkins for response. Ms. Watkins reported that the committee has not considered term limits and at this time has only proposed the names of those recommended for appointment to the board including committee chairs. She stated Council direction is requested and once the board is formed it is expected board members will make further recommendations.

Councilmember Knight stated that he would prefer that the Council make appointments (option 3) to the board adding that in his opinion 29 members is too many even though those recommended are good suggestions. He said he is more interested in seeing physical work at the cemetery adding fall and winter is the time for tree cutting and/or removal. He said too much time is being spent on who will be on the committee and similar decisions and Council's goal was to allocate funds for cemetery cleanup to occur at the same time as work is being done to organize the documentation. He said there was momentum going to clean up the cemetery and he wants to see that momentum continue now. He said the Council can get back with the Manager and Ms. Watkins, the consultant, relative to establishment of the board.

Ms. Watkins responded by saying the committee is a working committee and that is one of the reasons for the recommended number of board members. She said a lot of work is already being done and the board will have structure and will follow Robert's Rules of Order so she does not think the board and various committees will get bogged down. She said the recommendation is that the board meet every two months. She added she is experienced with this type of work, there will be a lot of volunteers involved and staff has done substantial work, and nothing further can be done until the Council approves appointments to the board. She said the office is almost set up and most of the files are organized and a board is needed.

Councilmember Knight questioned if Council is being advised that no work can be done to physically clean up the cemetery until the board is appointed. Council was advised that work has been done and is ongoing, but it is time for the governance structure of the board to be in place. The City Manager stated the board structure provided is that one would expect to see for a project such as this and further explained the board makeup. She added the request at this time is for Council to move forward with appointing the board so that guidance can be provided and so the board can work with people in the community who have expressed an interest in the cemetery project.

Councilmember Knight responded by saying his blood is boiling because he is very passionate about Unity Cemetery and Council has been working on this project since 2003 and has asked for an allocation of funds to clean up the cemetery. He said the money is there and the City has to get busy doing what Council said they will do. He added he understands the board needs to be created but what Council wants is the cemetery cleaned up. He said as work is done to organize files and historical information that should not prohibit cemetery cleanup. He recommended that each Councilmember and the Mayor make an appointment to the board and that cleanup move forward adding if further discussion is needed for additional members to be appointed to the board the matter can be brought back to Council for consideration.

Mayor Roberson said he is in total agreement with Councilmember Knight and said work should be continued to the extent possible. He

thanked Ms. Watkins for the work she has done and is doing and said what he thinks she is hearing is an eagerness to get started but did not want her work to be overlooked. He stated he is in 100 percent agreement with what has been said.

Councilmember Blackwell said the work of the committee should not impede the physical development of the cemetery. He said perhaps a hard line can be drawn between the committee and how the cemetery is redeveloped. He said he heard that the City cannot do much until it has site control and said he thinks there needs to be clarity on what that process looks like and a timetable for the process provided. He said the second issue he heard was data input. Mr. Blackwell questioned what that means and if it means information has been entered into the system or if it will be a technological transfer and what that process is.

Ms. Watkins reported that software has not yet been developed but most of the information has been organized. She said help and volunteers will be needed to review files in greater detail and for data input. She told the Council many people have been recommended for appointment to the board who are very interested and passionate and who have been waiting since October or November 2020 and suggested if there is to be a delay in appointments to the Board that that decision be relayed to the public.

Councilmember Blackwell stated from his perspective the work does not have to wait for appointments to the board. He asked the City Manager how much funding has been allocated for the cemetery.

Ms. Small-Toney advised \$1.5M has been allocated over a five-year period. Mr. Blackwell questioned how much is allocated to the preliminary work and in what areas cleanup can begin now. He further asked for a timetable for development of the cemetery and said he has consternation about the timetable for the actual renovation adding every other City cemetery is managed by City staff. He said there has just been a discussion about two cemeteries where work has been contracted out and he knows Unity Cemetery is a little different, but a clear timetable is needed. He questioned if the Manager is saying the City cannot have staff work in the cemetery until the City actually owns the property.

Ms. Small-Toney said the City does not own Unity Cemetery and for it to take on full maintenance of property it does not own can get the City into some trouble with the owner. She said it is a historic cemetery and great care should be taken when removing trees and stumps and the like. Councilmember Blackwell stated he is clear on all of that and does not need to be re-educated adding he is asking for a timetable relative to site control.

The City Manager said the first step is a survey of the cemetery boundaries which is currently underway, and completion is expected in approximately three months. She stated the next step will be negotiation with the owner and determination of the City's position to know whether the City wants to purchase the cemetery, if the owner wishes to sell it, or if the owner is interested in donating the cemetery. She said a timeline for that process can be provided and reiterated that though the City does not own the property, City staff is working in the cemetery. She said one of the early concerns for full maintenance by City staff is it is difficult to determine the location of graves and that is why the information received from Stokes Mortuary is so important because it will help to identify graves.

She continued by saying staff has been in conversation with two vendors relative to how to record the information and said it is better to have data input rather than scan in the information. She said a vendor will need to be selected to create a software program for data input. In response to Mr. Blackwell's question relative to a timetable for this work, the Manager estimated it will take another three months. She continued by reporting the plan is to use volunteers to enter the

information but that depends on how quickly volunteers are available adding it is a startup project from ground zero. She said if part-time help is required for data entry, she thinks the budget allows for that.

The Mayor Pro Tem reminded all there needs to be time for the crime report and redistricting discussion.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Information only; no formal action

3. REDISTRICTING - Caroline Mackie and Bill Gilkeson

Caroline Mackie with Poyner Spruill introduced demographer, Bill Gilkeson, to offer a report and respond to questions from Council relative to map preparation.

She made the following introductory remarks and reminded the Council of the schedule they are working under and said tonight two proposed plans (Alternative A and B) will be presented and on October 25 there will be a public hearing on the plans and the public will be able to provide input. Council was also provided with population, data and demographics for current wards and Alternatives A and B. She told the Council adoption of the final resolution (map) is scheduled for November 8 and the deadline for adoption of the plan can be extended to November 15. She added that the November 15 deadline can be extended to December, but it will push out the filing period. She said the process is very rushed and the entire state is operating under the same time restraints because of the delay in receiving census data. She added that the contract with the Local Redistricting Service allows for three plans though only two are being provided this evening.

Mr. Gilkeson told the Council he is the map drawer. He presented a PowerPoint presentation advising the City Council of the following:

- He did not use any partisan considerations or look at any election data in drawing the maps; and
- He did not communicate with any Councilmember about the maps other than in a public meeting.

Mr. Gilkeson outlined and explained the guiding principles approved by Council, provided to the Local Restricting Service in a Resolution adopted by Council, and used in preparing the maps.

He added that while he drew the maps without allowing race to predominate and did not look at race at that time, he did look at the race ratio once the maps were drawn. He said the information has been provided to Council and is on the City's website. He said he did not change the maps after reviewing the racial data. He explained the information taken into account while drawing the maps.

Mr. Gilkeson said one of the things people hear about Rocky Mount is that it is in two counties and the county line follows the railroad track through the center of the City. He said no current Ward boundaries follow the railroad track county line at all. He further explained the process used to draw the maps adding that Councilmembers are the experts

on the City, and he is relying upon them to identify communities of interest and neighborhoods.

He explained the following current ward population data:

WARD #	TOTAL POPULATION	IDEAL POPULATION	RAW DEVIATION	% DEVIATION
1	7,241	7,763	-522	-6.72%
2	6,822	7,763	-941	-12.12%
3	7,591	7,763	-172	-2.22%
4	7,508	7,763	-255	-3.28%
5	8,452	7,763	689	8.88%
6	8,692	7,763	929	11.97%
7	8,035	7,763	272	3.50%
City Total	54,341			

He said areas of potential growth were not clearly identified to him. It was explained that Wards 1 and 2 are underpopulated and need to take on more territory, particularly Ward 2, and Wards 5 and 6 are too large and beyond the 5% range and need to reduce territory and population, particularly Ward 6. He said Wards 5 and 6 grew most during the past 10 years with Ward 6 having the largest growth.

Mr. Gilkeson provided the Council with side-by-side comparisons of current wards, Alternative A and B maps along with population data, and demographic data (black/white). He explained the largest change in Alternative A is to Ward 1.

He outlined the characteristics of Alternative maps A and B as follows:

Alternative A

1. Prioritizes trying to stay within precinct lines;
2. Places highest growth ward during last decade, Ward 6, at the lower end of the plus or minus 5% deviation range, perhaps taking into account future growth; and
3. Keeps all incumbents in same wards they currently have. Doesn't pair any incumbents.

Alternative B

1. Prioritizes preserving the cores of existing wards over adherence to precinct lines;
2. Perhaps creates more compact districts than Alternative A;
3. Places one of the last decade's high growth wards, Ward 5, at the lower end of the plus or minus 5% range; and
4. Keeps all incumbents in same wards they currently have; doesn't pair any incumbents.

Mr. Gilkeson responded to questions relative to manipulation of the maps and stated he thinks the problem with the colors going away is with the redistricting software. He said he will look to see if he can find a fix for that but can't promise that he can. Councilmember Knight questioned if Mr. Gilkeson felt anything needed to be changed after he looked at the racial data and said Mr. Gilkeson responded that he really did not but stated he would defer to Ms. Mackie, the attorney on the team, as she could better respond as to race because the doctrines of gerrymandering and the Voting Rights Act are a bit of a minefield of the law. Ms. Mackie stated in the first conversation with Council it was discussed that these were two parallel streams of the law, and they would have to operate between them. She added when they looked at the current demographic data for the current wards and percentages in the electoral success of candidates preferred by minority voters, they were comfortable that they should look at the racial data after the fact, but it should not be a predominant criterion in drawing the maps. She said

they looked at it and the percentages changed some in the wards and there are some options and alternatives that can be considered.

Councilmember Daughtridge said he requested over the weekend that all redistricting information be placed on the City’s website and a link for the information be placed on the homepage. The City Manager stated that staff has already started to add information to the website.

Mayor Roberson asked if the Local Redistricting Service saw a need for a third map and Ms. Mackie advised that is in the discretion of Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Joyner requested the timeline again be outlined and Ms. Mackie provided the following:

- October 25 - Public Hearing;
- November 8 - Final adoption of map; and
- November 15 - Deadline

City Attorney Richard J. Rose told the Council it will be good if they could decide if both maps or only one will be considered at the public hearing. He added the public hearing will be advertised this week. He stated the redistricting statute does not set a requirement for notice of the public hearing, but accepted practice is ten (10) days’ notice. He suggested the advertisement say there will be a public hearing on proposed maps and the maps will be placed on the website.

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney questioned if it is necessary for the Council to meet again before the October 25 public hearing. Discussion was held and the Mayor stated a meeting could be called for Council discussion prior to the public hearing, if necessary.

Councilmember Blackwell said he thinks all members need time to review the maps and he is in favor of more options to discuss and evaluate and the option exists for the community to have its own vision and neither of these maps have to be adopted. He recommended a Special Called meeting be scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021, at 4 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. By consensus, the Council scheduled a Special Called Meeting for Monday, October 18, 2021, relative to the redistricting.

4. CRIME STATISTICS - Robert Hassell

Police Chief Robert Hassell presented a summary of city-wide crime numbers to the City Council for September 2021. It was noted that the presentation covers crime incidents throughout the City currently and in comparison, with the prior year during the same time period. The Council was advised that crime numbers are tracked by the FBI and shared with the Bureau of Justice Statistics for tracking purposes and the presentation includes investigation outcomes for violent crimes and related arrests. The presentation also included maps depicting areas of shots fired, incidences of aggravated assault and murder and highlighted efforts and successes of the Police Department to combat violent crime.

An overview of Chief Hassell’s PowerPoint presentation includes:

- National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Part 1 crime comparisons by type were provided. Total crime numbers by months and years were reported as:

Crimes/NIBRS Part 1	September 2020	September 2021	+/-	YTD 2020	YTD 2021	+/-
Total	221	152	-69	1517	1340	-177

- September 2021 crime numbers for murders, aggravated assault and shooting into occupied building(s)/vehicle(s) (map of locations provided):
 - Aggravated assault cases and investigations:
 - Aggravated assault cases = 22
 - Aggravated assault victims = 37
 - Number cases with multiple victims = 7
 - Aggravated assault arrests = 2
 - Aggravated assault cases cleared = 2
 - Case Dispositions (total = 22):
 - Cases cleared by arrest = 2
 - Inactive cases = 2
 - Open cases = 18

*Gang related = 1

Chief Hassell noted that violent crime is down by 29; year to date is down by 68; property crime is down by 39; year to date 110. He said in both categories crime has dropped for the past 3 to 4 months.

- Crime Report:
 - Murder, aggravated assault and shooting into occupied building/vehicle: total victims = 37
 - *Victims with injuries = 15
 - *Victims without injuries = 22
- ShotSpotter and Citizen calls City-wide:
 - Shots fired = 85
 - Calls resulting in shell casings found = 35
 - Number shell casings found = 426
 - Number of Firearms Seized = 35
 - Number firearms seized (year to date) = 311
 - Weapon violation arrests = 9
- Community Involvement:
 - **Police Athletic/Activity League** - developing a basketball camp to be launched this month;
 - **National Night Out** - ongoing planning for the NNO event to be held on the train station grounds; and
 - **Hosted NCACP Conference** - event attended by approximately 60 Police Chiefs from across the state

Councilmember Blackwell thanked the Manager and Chief noting there were increased shots fired and inappropriate activity taking place in some communities and there was a call for action from community members and an outstanding response. He thanked the Chief, his command team, and the City Manager for attending the community meeting and for following through on their work. He said things have been a lot quieter and he has heard nothing but compliments from the neighbors and the stage one plan is to look for more activity proactively to calm behaviors not conducive to family living.

Mayor Pro Tem Joyner thanked the Chief and City Manager for the community cleanup in the Clark and Branch Street area and for taking time out of their Saturday for that, adding other community walk-throughs are being planned.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Received report; no formal action

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the Mayor Pro Tem adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

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

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MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021, IN THE NASH ROOM, SECOND FLOOR OF THE ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER WITH MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARD JOYNER PRESIDING:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Joyner, Mayor Pro Tem
André D. Knight
Reuben C. Blackwell, IV
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
Mark Adcox
Robin Cox
Ken Hunter
Robert Hassell
Joel Dunn
Archie Jones
Chris Beschler
Elton Daniels
Abdul Baloch
Paula Carbone
Greg Cotten
Latasha Hall
Kena Cofield-Jones
Keyana Walston
Corey Mercer
Will Deaton
Tracey Drewery
Brad Kerr
Michael Roupp
Chase Norwood
Brenton Bent
Jayson Dawkins
Darvin Moore
Richard J. Rose

SECURITY OFFICERS:

Stephen Walker, Police Sergeant
Shawn Battle, Senior Police Officer

OPENING OF MEETING

The City Council was provided with a packet of information relative to the ward redistricting just prior to the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Richard Joyner called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and called for a moment of silence in recognition of the death of retired United States Army General and Secretary of State Colin Powell and stated that Secretary Powell served this country well.

The Mayor Pro Tem called on City Attorney Richard J. Rose to provide an overview of the redistricting process.

Mr. Rose stated that today's meeting was scheduled for the purpose of holding discussion among Council on the two plans (Maps A and B) presented by the demographer. He said the Council can decide if they wish to do something different and added that a public hearing is scheduled for one week from now for October 25, 2021, at 4 p.m. and the public will have the opportunity to speak on the plans. He stated the plans will be on the City's website prior to the meeting (<https://rockymountnc.gov/redistricting/>). The City Attorney stated the City Council can adopt one of the alternative plans (A or B) or make minor or major changes.

Mr. Rose told the Council an additional public hearing will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021, at 6 p.m. He outlined the schedule as:

- October 25, 2021 - Public Hearing - Regular City Council meeting (4 p.m.)
- November 1, 2021 - Special Called Committee of the Whole meeting on redistricting (6 p.m.)
- November 8, 2021 - possible adoption of redistricting map
- November 15, 2021 - adoption of redistricting map (required)

He told the Council by Friday, November 12, 2021, the City will need to notify the Boards of Elections (Nash and Edgecombe) if the new map can be delivered by the November 17, 2021, deadline.

The City Attorney responded to questions from Councilmembers by saying:

- Once the Council adopts the plan (map) it will be used for the election on March 8, 2022;
- The plan chosen can only be overturned by the courts; and
- The date of the election (March 8, 2022) is set by the General Assembly and there is no flexibility on the date.

Mayor Pro Tem Joyner opened the floor for discussion of the plans (Alternatives A and B).

Councilmember Blackwell stated he would like the public to be allowed to review and comment on both Plans A and B so as to have maximum flexibility and accountability to the public while also recognizing there are other options and alternatives for plans the community or anyone wants considered.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight, and unanimously carried that the public be allowed to review and comment on Plans A and B.

Councilmember Daughtridg questioned if the request is for public comment to be received today and Councilmember Blackwell clarified the time for comment will be Monday, October 25, 2021.

The Mayor Pro Tem invited discussion from Councilmembers.

Councilmember Knight stated that at the last Committee of the Whole the demographer stated he did not use any partisan considerations or look at any election data in drawing the maps and did not communicate with any Councilmember about the maps other than in a public meeting. He said some Councilmembers and the community received information that some people had knowledge of the new maps being drawn and it was posted on social media that certain candidates would be running against other candidates. He questioned what community groups or civic groups were contacted by Poyner Spruill.

Mr. Rose responded that the City has a separate contract with Caroline Mackie and the demographer, but he is not aware that anyone was contacted and everything that came from The Local Redistricting Service was posted on the City's website before today's meeting.

Councilmember Knight voiced concern that information was leaked in connection with the maps and asked the City Attorney to ask the demographer if he had conversation with anyone.

Councilmember Daughtridg stated he has not heard anything or seen anything on social media relative to the maps and asked for more detail as to Mr. Knight's comments. He added that all information shared with Council to date is public information and he is curious where this information came from and of its credibility. He stated it is his recollection that Councilmember Knight was in support of retaining the

nonpartisan Local Redistricting Service. Councilmember Knight responded that he would share the information he has received. Councilmember Blackwell stated he too has knowledge of the information shared with Councilmember Knight and said he received it about a week before the information was received from the demographer. He stated when The Local Districting Group was chosen it was not expected they would have conversation with anyone other than Councilmembers and the information he has received makes him uncomfortable. He reminded all that the proposed lines can change and that is the point of the public comment. He added Council will not be held hostage to anything, the concern will be what is best for citizens and Council is open to any alternatives the public wants considered.

Councilmember Bullock stated that not all citizens have access to the City's website and clarified that all information provided to Council is public and Councilmembers are free to talk to citizens about information they have received. City Attorney Richard J. Rose confirmed the information shared is public.

Councilmember Daughtridge asked if there is a problem with the City's website and the City Manager responded it is currently down.

Councilmember Daughtridge asked why the full Council has not been made aware of the concerns mentioned by Councilmembers Knight and Blackwell and said he has a lot of questions. City Attorney Richard J. Rose reminded Councilmembers that the public had access to the information on the City's website, potentially before Council saw it, and Councilmember Knight responded that the information received was prior to it being posted on the City's website. Mr. Rose confirmed that he will have a conversation with the demographer relative to the concerns voiced.

Councilmember Blackwell stated the bottom line is that the public has the right to voice their opinion and the maps are subject to change according to the will of the City Council. He stated Council is asking that Poyner Spruill and The Local Districting Group help the City Council to have confidence in the team. He added he has received much concern from some of his constituents about some of the philosophy being espoused being somewhat flippant related to race and the history of a city that has had historical issues and it is important to be sensitive even though it is understand that partisan and race issues cannot be primary.

Councilmember Knight stated that Ward 1 has historically been located in Edgecombe County and the proposed new maps change that.

In response to a question from Councilmember Walker, the City Manager stated a recording of today's meeting will be posted online.

The Mayor Pro Tem thanked the residents and staff for their presence and reiterated that the public will have an opportunity to look at both proposed maps (A and B) and to come up with other alternatives.

Councilmember Daughtridge voiced surprise that today's meeting was ending so quickly adding that consideration of the proposed maps is a big deal.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Bullock, and passed by a vote of 6-2 (Councilmembers Knight and Blackwell opposed) that the Poyner Spruill team (The Local Redistricting Service) be asked to provide an Alternative third Map C.

Councilmembers Knight and Blackwell asked for clarification of the motion made by Councilmember Daughtridge and Mr. Daughtridge responded saying unless he missed something it was discussed in the last meeting about others being able to provide maps adding that the contract with The Local Redistricting Group provided an option for an additional third map.

He said if there is a question about the two maps provided, the group should be asked to prepare an Alternative Map C. Councilmember Miller agreed.

Councilmember Knight stated that Council voted to present both A and B Alternatives for consideration and comment. Councilmember Blackwell added that it has been stated that citizens will be able to provide input and may provide another alternative so he was thinking that alternative would be Map C. He said if the Poyner Spruill team is preparing a third map there will be an A, B, C, and D option. Councilmember Blackwell said he wants to make clear that an Alternative Map C provided by The Local Redistricting Group will not be the final map because citizen input is desired.

Councilmember Miller suggested a deadline be set for citizen input to allow for vetting.

The Mayor Pro Tem requested the City Attorney to outline the dates for citizen input and Mr. Rose responded that public hearings are scheduled for October 25 at 4 p.m. and November 1 at 6 p.m. He stated the demographer will have to review all maps to ensure they are in balance.

Councilmember Daughtridge said he does not imagine the public will have all the necessary information needed to draw a map and questioned how long the process will take for the demographer to prepare an additional map. Mr. Rose stated he does not know but does not think it would take long. Councilmember Blackwell said it is not known what citizens have access to and said he wants to ensure citizens are provided accurate data in a manipulative form (on the City's website) adding he is not sure that exists at this time. He said the public needs to be able to access the information and prepare the map they want. He said Map C was just requested with no direction or information being provided which calls into question if there is already a plan for Map C. Mr. Blackwell concluded by saying this is the people's election and they have the right to submit whatever they wish as long as it meets the requirements of the federal government and the Council's guiding principles.

The City Attorney responded to a question from the Mayor Pro Tem indicating that it will be helpful to have any additional maps by October 25.

Councilmember Knight requested the City Attorney outline the Council's guiding principles and Mr. Rose outlined the criteria set by Council to be:

- **REQUIRED GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

1. Equal population - as provided by law;
2. Racial considerations - (Alternatives A and B were drawn without allowing specific racial percentages of the census block to predominate);
3. Retaining current configuration of wards;
4. Natural boundaries and physical features;
5. Precinct boundaries;
6. Neighborhood boundaries;
7. Communities of interest;
8. Avoid pairing incumbents (keep incumbents in the same ward they are currently in);
9. Attention to areas of potential future population growth; and
10. Compactness

ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Pro Tem Joyner opened the floor for questions and in the absence of same and, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER

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

- Began her report by wishing the community a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. She reminded all that City facilities and offices will be closed Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26 and will re-open Monday, November 29. Regular residential trash collection will take place Friday, November 26, and areas with a scheduled Thursday, November 25 pickup will be serviced on Saturday, November 27. Tar River Transit will not operate on Thanksgiving Day but will return to normal service hours on Friday, November 26. Reminders about these closings and schedules will be placed on the City's social media platforms.
- Encouraged all to mark their calendars and join the Manager for the next #RockyMount4All Virtual Town Hall session entitled, "Black Business Matters," which will be held Tuesday, November 30 at 7 p.m. She announced she will be joined by Dr. Lisa Nelson-Robinson of Rocky Mount Renaissance and Celeste Beatty of Harlem Brew South. She stated that opinions and interaction is valued and invited those interested to share views by emailing outreach@rockymountnc.gov. The Town Hall will be broadcast live on the City's Facebook and YouTube platforms, with opportunities for questions and comments live during the Town Hall.
- Announced that the City's Minority Women Business Enterprise Division is a co-presenter of the 2021 MEDWEEK – Minority Enterprise Development – which will run from Sunday, November 28 through Saturday, December 3. MED Week celebrates the impact of minority entrepreneurs across the Twin Counties, while providing networking, expanding, and strengthening of minority-owned businesses. She thanked the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce for its planning and participation with MEDWEEK. The Manager noted that all events can be found on the City's website at rockymountnc.gov/events, including the week's culmination, a vendor rodeo from 1-6 p.m. on Saturday, December 3 outside of the Rocky Mount Train Station. The Manager stated for more information or questions those interested can call 252-972-1236.
- Invited all to visit rockymountnc.gov, which is home to Mayor Sandy Roberson's "Mayor's Brief" studio interviews. The Manager reported in the latest episode, Mayor Roberson and Mayor Pro Tem Richard Joyner discussed the latest news in the City surrounding the adoption of a redistricting map, the ongoing Workforce Housing and Community Land Trust plans, as well as some of Mayor Pro Tem Joyner's work leading the City's Community Wealth Building initiatives. She encouraged all to tune into the "Mayor's Brief" at rockymountnc.gov.
- Stated that the Rocky Mount Event Center is bringing a nationally known artist for a concert in December. She announced that Brooke Simpson, who recently was featured on "America's Got Talent" and previously was a finalist on "The Voice", will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 11. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with opening acts soon to be announced. Simpson's performance will be part of a full day at the Event Center, which will also hold its inaugural North Carolina Holiday Makers Market event, beginning at 9 a.m. The Makers Market event will feature a Yoga Class, Downtown and local business vendors, carriage rides, face painting, hayrides and performances from local high school bands, and dance groups. General admission tickets for the Brooke Simpson concert are \$20, while VIP tickets, which include a Meet and Greet with Simpson, are \$40. Visit rockmounevents.com for ticket and event information.
- Announced there are a number of ways the public can celebrate the upcoming holidays with the City. She noted the City Lake Lighting will be on Thursday, December 2 at 6 p.m., followed by the Rocky Mount Christmas Parade to be held on Sunday, December 5 from 3-5 p.m. in Downtown Rocky Mount. The Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences will hold

a Winter Wonderland event on Sunday, December 12 from 1-5 p.m. and will also be home of the Sanders Family Christmas production, with six (6) live shows beginning December 3. Details are available at rockymountnc.gov and imperialcentre.org; and

- Invited all to visit rockymountnc.gov and take part in the second Rocky Mount Resilience Plan Public Survey. The survey takes less than five minutes to complete and will provide the City and its partners vital feedback as current and future risks, challenges and vulnerabilities are evaluated. She invited those interested in receiving updates on future planning meetings and surveys to visit rockymountresilience.com.

Councilmember Joyner noted that the Minority Enterprise Development event will run from Sunday, November 28 through Friday, December 3.

Councilmember Walker announced there will be a Down East 252 basketball invitational at the Event Center on November 27.

Councilmember Knight stated it is his understanding attendance at the CSX event was by invitation only and the City Manager stated she would assume that was the case. He said the Council supports the Carolinas Gateway Partnership 100% and he would hope in the future the full Council will be included in invitations to similar events adding he feels the full Council not receiving invitations was disrespectful.

Councilmember Daughtridge stated that he thinks participation at the CSX event was limited due to safety issues.

Councilmember Blackwell agreed with Councilmember Knight and said he is sure CSX had some type of rationale and reasoning, but several Councilmembers worked behind the scenes for them when they first came to this community and helped them resolve many political issues. He said he hopes the Carolinas Gateway Partnership will have the presence of mind in the future to ensure Council is included in economic development events such as the CSX event and to include Council as true engaged partners on the front end. He added if Council cannot attend an event, they can take steps to assure they are fully and equitably represented.

CELEBRATION OF 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mayor C. Saunders Roberson, Jr. wished Ms. Mary Harper Hines a very happy birthday and presented her with a framed certificate recognizing this milestone birthday. Councilmembers Blackwell and Knight shared memories with Ms. Hines and the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and Ms. Hines' family joined her 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:

- ***Carol Thomas:***
 - Spoke on behalf of the Bahai's of Rocky Mount and gave an overview of the Bahai Faith;
 - Stated that a commemorative tree and plaque will be placed at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park through the Parks Maintenance Memorial Tree Program to honor the centenary of the passing of Abul-Baha;

- Told Council three of the recently published children's books have been donated to the Braswell Memorial Library and a musical event was held on Saturday at 100 Northwest Main Street widening the ever-growing dimension of diversity in the City
- ***Dr. Kim E. Koo:***
- Told the City Council she lives in the Englewood section of Rocky Mount;
 - Said at the last Council meeting, there was a proposal to dismantle the current Community and Business Development section and to merge the duties of this department under the leadership of the Human Relations Department;
 - Said the reason given for doing so is the inability to attract competent and stable leadership and no one wants the job at the salary offered;
 - Said it seems to her the job calls for more than just salary considerations and there seems to be a higher level of difficulty involved that has been overlooked;
 - Said we are living in a time when the pandemic is still not under control, and crisis after crisis are all occurring at the same time; the pandemic is not resolved; and the public health crisis will not be swept away by the magic bullet of vaccinations;
 - Said the City's housing crisis remains unsettled and workers who risked everything are now taking to the streets not just for better pay, but also demanding to be treated with dignity;
 - Said looming over all this is the climate crisis overwhelmingly present but largely ignored and dismissed;
 - Said any future Community and Business Development must take this into account or suffer at its own peril;
 - Said the person hired for Community and Business Development has to be responsible for finding continuing solutions to Rocky Mount's affordable housing needs and will need to integrate solutions with a crisis around us and overcome the different levels of resistance from old and new powers that are still fighting any change to the established order;
 - Said a person is needed who can think outside of the box and break out of the confines of hierarchical thinking and said it is no wonder that few if any are up to the challenge and the job opening remains unfulfilled;
 - Said it is unfair to place this difficult problem on the shoulders of the Head of the Human Relations Department saying he already has his own set of responsibilities, which are very different from that of Community and Business Development; and
 - Asked that the City Manager reconsider her decision to merge Community and Business Development with the Human Relations Department
- ***Nehemiah Smith:***
- Said something has happened in the City and in the area that has never happened before and that is that Dr. Valerie Bridges was named Superintendent of the Year for the State of North Carolina;
 - Said this is the first time that a Black woman has received this type of recognition and the first time anyone in Edgecombe County has received such recognition;
 - Said he hopes the City will send her a congratulatory letter;
 - Said on behalf of the 1871 initiative and Mount Zion First Baptist Church's sesquicentennial year, he extends an invitation to Council to join them for the second annual "Feed the City" event;
 - Said the goal last year was to serve 5,000 meals and they served 4,700;
 - Said this year's goal is to serve 6,000 meals
 - Stated that last year, Mayor Roberson and Councilmembers Blackwell and Knight attended the event and Councilmember Joyner played an integral role in the success of the event;
 - Asked that Council, the City Manager and City employees come out and join them adding that people from all over the City came for food and fellowship last year;

- Said some in line, didn't want food but wanted to talk to someone and have someone to pray with them and still they gave them food;
- Added that last year the Police came out to direct traffic and ended up serving meals and some stayed beyond their shifts;
- Said they are looking forward to this year's event being an even grander event. He said there will be health and wellness checks and they will be working with OIC and different vendors;
- Invited all to the event to be held on December 11th from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Roberson thanked Mr. Smith for his comments and said he wished to underscore the comments relative to Dr. Bridges and said the Council is very proud of her and her efforts to education children in the community.

○ ***Adrienne Copeland:***

- Said she has been looking into the community land trust and said it can be a fantastic way to get homeowners into below market price houses explaining the financial reasons;
- Said according to the National Association of Realtors, in 2021 homes in Edgecombe County were affordable and less so in Nash County (providing statistical information);
- Said the CLT will cost approximately \$305,000 in consulting fees;
- Questioned how it will acquire property; and
- Suggested that the private sector be invited to participate in resolving the housing issue in the City and that the City and the private sector work together

○ ***Curmilus Dancy:***

- Said he addressed the Council previously about public comments;
- Thanked the Council for voting for the Community Academy redistricting map;
- Said citizens/candidates need to be made aware of what the duties are of a Councilmember and the duties of City staff;
- Said he says that because Councilmember Joyner asked if the NAACP had any recommendations;
- Said he still hopes the Council does what he asked them to do relative to public comments;
- Said citizens need to understand Councilmembers are elected by the people and serve unless they become convicted of a felony and, unless the City Charter says otherwise, they cannot be removed;
- Said when citizens learn how City government works, the better off they will be;
- Said when citizens learn City government is not run by local talk shows and unhappy folk, the better off they will be and when they learned the role of a Councilmember and the role of the City staff, the better off they will be;
- Said when someone says get rid of a Councilmember Council should respond by letting them know the procedure to remove a Councilmember;
- Said the same should be done when someone wants to get rid of City staff;
- Said some citizens/candidates don't know the role of the Council and it appears Council needs to educate them;
- Said when it comes to how money can be used, citizens need to be educated;
- Said he hopes in 2022 the Council will not sit silently but will educate the citizens because some may not know, are in denial, or just want to create division among the Council and the citizens;
- Said this is the Council's meeting and they should demand respect and there is a difference between holding the Council accountable and disrespecting them

- **Troy Davis:**
 - Said to educate the people in Rocky Mount, he would like to give a little spiel;
 - Said the City Manager is hired by City Council... all seven members of the City Council and when it becomes apparent that City management becomes incompetent, that definition being not having or showing the necessary skills to do something successfully, he thinks it's time for the City Council to do its job and terminate the City Manager

- **Samuel Battle:**
 - Said he saw the Fire Chief jogging in the City the other morning;
 - Said he played football with the Fire Chief and respects him adding it means something that the Fire Chief is jogging through the community and means he has a heart of gold and is down with the community;
 - Said he thinks more of that should be seen from others, even Police Officers;
 - Said he has seen Police Officers run through the community, but all need to be more community oriented;
 - Said when someone is not born and bred in Rocky Mount and stay in Pinetops they can't vote in Rocky Mount;
 - Said he takes it very personally when someone comes to the City and Rocky Mount citizens needs to tend to the City's business;
 - Said he was born in Rocky Mount;
 - Said the City has its issues, and no one should be trying to sabotage it;
 - Said people don't want to come together in this City but he thinks Council is going a great job;
 - Said he agrees with Council about some things and said it was disrespectful of CSX to say it was going to bring 500 jobs but only brought 10 jobs and he cannot support them; and
 - Said the Mayor was at the CSX event, and he is a part of the Council, so he has no problem with that, and Shelly Willingham was there so he is not upset with Council for not being present because they had others there

There being no further public petitions, the Mayor closed the public petitions portion of the meeting.

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>EDGECOMBE COUNTY</u>				
2021	1000274	NELSON, DOUGLAS MONTERA 629 LINCOLN DR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801	10.41	CITY DUPLICATE BILL
		TOTAL RELEASE:	10.41	
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>				
2021	800	PRIMO WATER CORP D/B/A PRIMO REFILL LLC 1511 BENVENUE RD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27804	15.85 1.59	CITY OWNER CORRECTION PEN
		TOTAL RELEASE:	17.44	

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>				
2021	1142	ECONO WASH 859 W RALEIGH BLVD ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803	212.95 21.30	CITY VALUATION PEN CORRECTION
		TOTAL RELEASE:	234.25	

B. TEMPORARY STREET CLOSING (recommended for approval):

- Request from Brad Kerr, Director of Public Works, for permission to close the following streets for the Annual Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 5, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ordinance adoption requirement of NCDOT standards):
 - Along the east side of Main Street from Marigold Street to E. Thomas Street, Thomas Street (US 64 Business West) from NE Main Street to N. Church Street and Church Street (US 301 Business) from W. Thomas Street to Bassett Street

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the recommendations outlined in the Consent Agenda be approved inclusive of approval of the tax releases and/or refunds and adoption of **Ordinance No. O-2021-88** entitled **ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT DECLARING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE.**

FY 2022 INSTALLMENT FINANCING/REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION - EQUIPMENT

The City Council was provided with a reimbursement resolution declaring the City's official intent to reimburse expenditures incurred in connection with the replacement of equipment to be included in FY 2022 installment financing as follows:

Replacement of Equipment - (five [5] Peterson TL-3 Lightning Loaders; Automated Side Loader: Crane Carrier Cab Chassis; RT Backhoe; Automated Side Loader: New Way Automated Body; Automated Leaf Truck; Steel Recycling Transport Trailer; 50' Fully Hydraulic Derrick, Rear Mount; Vermeer Vacuum Excavator; Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device w/Material Handling; Mini Derrick; Replacement Backhoe; Peterson TL-3 Lightning Loader; Track Excavator; Tractor Boom Mower - \$3,190,000)

The Council was advised that it is customary for the City to purchase items to be financed in advance and subsequently reimburse the expenditures with financing and the U. S. Treasury requires that a resolution declaring the City's intent to reimburse expenditures be adopted in advance.

Motion was made by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that **Resolution No. R-2021-58** entitled **RESOLUTION DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES MADE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT.**

POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT/ROCKY MOUNT HOUSING AUTHORITY

The City Council received a Pole Attachment Agreement with the Rocky Mount Housing Authority outlining the terms and conditions for attachment of security cameras on thirty-four (34) utility poles, thirty-one (31) owned by the City and three (3) owned by the Housing Authority.

Council was advised that in 2016 the Housing Authority installed security cameras on City poles in three (3) housing developments however neither the City nor the Housing Authority has a copy of an executed Pole Attachment Agreement. It was recommended that the Pole Attachment Agreement be approved, and Council was advised the City will receive annual revenue of \$1,684.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the pole attachment agreement with the Rocky Mount Housing Authority (**C-2021-38**) be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCES

The City Council received the following project ordinances/amendments:

- a. **Ordinance No. O-2021-89** entitled **PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/ROCKY MOUNT EVENT CENTER** - appropriates funds in the General Capital Projects Fund (\$1,577,465) for the Rocky Mount Event Center Project and appropriates funds (\$1,905,757) in the General Fund to reflect reimbursement from project proceeds;
- b. **Ordinance No. O-2021-90** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/2021-2022 CDBG PROJECT** - appropriates funds (\$125,000) for the City's matching share of funding for the Housing Repair Program (provides for interfund transfer for FY 2020 that did not occur); and
- c. **Ordinance No. O-2021-91** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT "HUBBELL POWER SYSTEMS"** - appropriates funds (\$300,000) to the Economic Development Fund as awarded from the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Building Reuse Grant Program for Project Hubbell Power Systems (Project Fusion 2)

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge, and unanimously carried that the ordinances listed above be adopted.

BID/ONE (1) 230KV CIRCUIT SWITCHER FOR THE SOUTH POD STATION

The City Council received a proposal for one (1) 230kv Circuit Switcher for the South Point of Delivery (POD) Station, which was received and opened on October 15, 2021, after all necessary legal procedures had been implemented including newspaper advertising and posting of the solicitation on the City's purchasing webpage, North Carolina Historically Underutilized Business website and the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System website. The bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2021-43**.

Additionally, the City Council received a budget ordinance amendment for the purchase cost (\$121,390).

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and unanimously carried that the bid be awarded to RW Chapman & Company at a total cost of \$121,390; that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award; and that **Ordinance No. O-2021-92** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FOR SOUTH POINT OF DELIVERY CIRCUIT SWITCHER** be adopted. This budget ordinance appropriates funds in the Electric Fund for purchase of the circuit switcher.

BID/ARCHITECTURAL SERVICE CONTRACT

The City Council was informed that qualifications were received and opened on January 18, 2019, for the City Hall Renovation Architectural Service Contract for the FY 2022 City Hall Interior Renovations (1st Floor [South Side]) after all necessary legal procedures, including newspaper advertising, had been implemented. The solicitation was also posted on the City's purchasing webpage and the bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2021-44**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and unanimously carried the bid contract be awarded to Oakley Collier Architects at a total cost of \$120,000 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City. The Council was advised that Oakley Collier Architects will subcontract 20% with a MWBE.

BID/ONE (1) 41' DIGGER DERRICK-TRACKED BACKYARD

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase one (1) 41' Digger Derrick-Tracked Backyard through the Sourcewell Group Purchasing Program, a competitive group purchasing program that serves education and government agencies nationally through competitive bidding and offers competitively obtained purchasing solutions, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e) (3).

The Energy Resources Department is requesting the purchase of one (1) 41' Digger Derrick-Tracked Backyard based on contract #012418-ALT-Public Utility Equipment, with related accessories and supplies, a bid awarded by Sourcewell.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker and unanimously carried that the purchase of one (1) 41' Digger Derrick-Tracked Backyard at a total cost of \$210,995 from Altec Industries, Inc. be approved and that the Purchasing Division be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

Bid documentation for this purchase will be filed with the bid documentation in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2021-45**.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING/CANCELLATION

Consideration was given by the City Council of canceling the second regular Council meeting scheduled for December 27, 2021.

Motion was made by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the regular City Council meeting scheduled for December 27, 2021, be canceled.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULES (REGULAR AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration was given by the City Council of 2022 City Council and Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting schedules.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and unanimously carried that the 2022 meeting schedules be approved.

APPOINTMENTS

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

CLOSED SESSION/ATTORNEY-CLIENT (PERSONNEL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE - ADDED TO AGENDA IN OPEN MEETING)

A Closed Session to discuss matters concerning personnel, economic development and attorney-client privilege was added to the agenda.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the City Council go into Closed Session at 4:48 p.m. The minutes of the Closed Session shall be filed as **ESM-593** at the end of **Minute Book 37** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

REGULAR SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor convened the City in regular session at 6:11 p.m. and there being no further business for regular session, adjourned the meeting.

Pamela O. Casey
City Clerk