

January 10, 2022

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular session scheduled for 7:00 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; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; Elton Daniels, Assistant City Manager; Jessie Nunery, Media Relations Specialist Communications, Marketing and Public Relations, Kirk Brown Communications, Marketing and Public Relations Director; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Chris Beschler, Director of Energy Resources; Brad Kerr, Public Works Director; Todd Gardner, Transit Administrator; Will Deaton, Development Services Director; Kelly Cooke, Community Code Administrator; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Gregory Cotten, Chief Technology Officer; Latasha Hall, Director of Business and Collections Services; Tracey Drewery, Assistant Chief of Administration & Planning (Fire Department); Corey Mercer, Fire Chief; Ken Hunter, Assistant to the City Manager for Budget and Evaluation; Darvin Moore, Division Chief; Michael Roupp, Assistant Chief of Operations; Brenton Bent, Water Resources Director; Chris Ballard, Police Captain; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Cornelia McGee, Community Development Administrator; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

*NOTE: Public participation limited relative to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19); meeting was accessible remotely via FaceBook and the City's YouTube Channel.*

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested all to stand for a moment of silent 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 Special Called City Council Meeting held November 1, 2021; Special Called Committee of the Whole Meeting held November 2, 2021; Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting held November 8, 2021; Regular Scheduled Committee of the Whole held November 8, Special Called City Council Meeting held November 16, 2021; and a Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting held November 22,

2021 be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

**COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER**

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

- Began her report by reminding everyone the community is invited to a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Celebration at the historic Unity Cemetery from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January the 15<sup>th</sup>; volunteers will provide cleanup services to the cemetery property and are encouraged to wear closed-toe, comfortable shoes, long pants, and long sleeve shirts; lunch will be provided. She stated for more information call 252-972-1388 or email [unity.admin@rockymountnc.gov](mailto:unity.admin@rockymountnc.gov).
- Noted that the 34th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity breakfast will be held virtually via the Rocky Mount Event Center at eight o'clock a.m. on Monday, January the 17<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker will be Jim Goodman of Capitol Broadcasting; and the first place middle school and high school winners of the January 8<sup>th</sup> oratorical contest will also share their speeches. Contact 252-972-1180 for more information.
- Stated that the Business and Collection Services Department was made aware of scammers contacting citizens and falsely identifying themselves as city employees. As a reminder, the number of the automated calling system is 1-866-288-7608; All utilities payment should be made directly to the City of Rocky Mount via phone at 972-1250 or by utilizing the City's website. If customers have doubts of a call claiming to be the City of Rocky Mount, they should hang up immediately and contact 972-1250
- Made citizens aware there are now additional payment methods for City of Rocky Mount utility customers. Customers can make utility payments using PayPal, Amazon pay and in person at Walmart. Customers must have both their customer and account numbers to utilize these payment methods
- Stated citizens have one last chance to take part in the Rocky Mount resilience plan public survey. The survey takes less than five minutes to complete and will help better develop resilience strategies for Rocky Mount to address the risk and vulnerability of the City. The survey can be completed by visiting [rockymountnc.gov](http://rockymountnc.gov) and scrolling to the bottom of the page
- Introduced new Purchasing Manager Chynice Chapman
- Introduced new Director of Communications, Marketing and Public Relations Kirk Brown
- Recognized the Rocky Mount Fire and EMS Personnel for their heroic efforts associated with battling the horrific fire at the QVC Rocky Mount Distribution Facility on Saturday, December 18, 2021. She stated the department supplied 55 of its 152 personnel over a 10-day period to assist in mitigation while still managing responses in the City at an outstanding level. The Fire Department coordinated with the Rocky Mount Event Center to assist ATF with a location to conduct interviews with QVC employees which allowed them to complete their investigation quicker. She stated the response to the QVC fire is a true testament to the wonderful public safety personnel not only in the City of Rocky Mount, but also in neighboring communities. She asked that everyone please give a standing ovation to the servicemen and servicewomen present.

Mayor Roberson and the City Manager joined Fire Chief, Corey Mercer, and members of the Fire Department for a photograph.

Councilmember Blackwell requested clarification about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity breakfast being virtual or in person and the City Manager clarified that it would be virtual and broadcast for the public.

### 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:

- **Tom Harris:**
  - Said he would like to see quarterly results of the financial position of the City;
  - Said he would like a presentation on the operations of the Rocky Mount Event Center;
  - Stated he was in favor of organizations that are deserving but would like the City to do a better job of informing the public [relative to grants];
  - Stated he would like to see information relative to who the entities are and what they do; and
  - Stated he saw on the Secretary of State's website that one of the 11 organizations selected was just formed in November 2021
- **Ray Liguori:**
  - Said he is speaking on behalf of Joyce Edwards Dantzler, the President of the Rocky Mount Railroad Museum;
  - Invited the Mayor and Council to a reception and membership drive for the museum at 2 p.m. on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Braswell Memorial Library;
  - Stated the purpose of the museum is to show people through model train displays, artifacts and pictures, the rich history of the railroad here in Rocky Mount; and
  - Stated they were currently asking for donations of railroad artifacts, pictures, model trains and memorabilia to place in the museum
- **Bronson Williams:**
  - Stated he would like to know the comprehensive development plan for the community as it relates to what is being done, ensuring people have ready access to the plans and if some of the plans have the possibility of being updated;
  - Stated the item for the properties at 811 and 815-821 Hammond Street shows that by allowing the upset bid process to take place the City is now accepting \$40,000 rather than the initial bid of \$100; and
  - Stated he agrees there are concerns with the process associated with the Housing Incentive Grant Program and the City needs to look at the process and address any issues appropriately
- **Nehemiah Smith:**
  - Stated he would like to thank the City of Rocky Mount for the quick response to the incident that happened at 1154 West Raleigh Boulevard (Princess Mart); especially Police Chief Hassell and his department, as well as City Manager Small-Tony for her support and genuine concern;
  - Said this incident shows when a community works together, it can resolve issues before they get out of hand and escalate into something more; and
  - Stated convenience stores in the Black communities across the City should be held to the highest standards possible and requested the City ensure the City Code is being enforced and look at the City Code to address the aesthetics of these and other establishments
- **Adrienne Copland:**
  - Stated she is unhappy with item 21 on the agenda; not in agreement with spending \$805,000 when trash is still not being picked up, crime is not under control, codes are not enforced, and tax liens are not foreclosed on;
  - Stated these responsibilities belong to everyone in the City;
  - Said she feels homeowners that are already here and working hard to keep their houses from going into a deteriorated status are being neglected;
  - Stated many individuals were denied approval of applications for the Urgent Repair Program, Housing Repair Program and the 50/50 Matching Program and many of those individuals met the low-income requirements;

- Said she is upset that companies receiving grants to fix up properties will end up receiving rental income; and
  - Asked why the program was created for 623 Branch Street and nobody else has gotten a chance to apply for it;
- **Thomas Walker:**
    - Stated he appreciates the Council's and City Manager's work;
    - Encouraged the Council to continue to work together; and
    - Stated he feels Rocky Mount is at a good place and said he commends the work being done
- **Kevin Smith:**
    - Stated that Community and Business Development Department had reported 623 Branch Street was uninhabitable, but Community Code does not appear to have information on it;
    - Stated the Community Code Department deals with these types of issues, but the job was bid out and he feels it will cost the City more;
    - Asked how a new house would be able to be built on the property and conform to today's codes and setbacks;
    - Said he would like to see the bid proposal package and bids that have been accepted; and
    - Stated community land trusts are designed to solve a problem that the City of Rocky Mount does not have
- **Taylor Smith:**
    - Asked why the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association is getting a \$50,000 housing grant that isn't going to be used for housing;
    - Asked how a neighborhood facility improves housing conditions because the purpose of the Housing Incentive Grant Program pursuant to the memorandum is to improve housing conditions in inner-city neighborhoods in Rocky Mount;
    - Asked how the association is planning to put a deed of trust on the property if they do not own it;
    - Asked why Truth Tabernacle needs only \$40,000 to restore a house, but Around the Y Community needs \$100,000 to restore a house;
    - Asked if the properties and repair estimates were reviewed; and
    - Asked why Peacemakers is getting \$25,000 for a down payment assistance and debt relief program
- **April Johnson:**
    - Stated she is representing her family that has lived in the Hillsdale Community since 1968;
    - Stated her family and others are very concerned about the recommendation for the fiscal year 2022 Housing Incentive Grant Program in the name of the Hillsdale Association;
    - Asked why the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association is asking for funding for property located at 1512 Barnes Street when Edgecombe County shows the property belongs to Sharon Evans, who is the Vice President of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association, and her three siblings;
    - Asked why the neighborhood association is proposing to lease the property from the owner for use as a neighborhood facility;
    - Asked about the loan agreement that would be entered into, how the deed of trust would be secured, and who the association would be paying the grant funds back to; and
    - Stated she reached out to Antoinette Cutler, the president of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association, to get an understanding of the proposal and was told it was for 1604 Fountain Street, but still owned by the same family
- **Tamika Bell:**
    - Stated she has lived at 3003 Sunset Avenue since September of 2020;
    - Said she and her family have been exposed to extensive amounts of mold that has caused sickness and hospital visits;

- Stated she has talked with many people about the issue and has been told to vacate the home, but she does not want to have to relocate her family;
- Stated there is still mold in the home and the only way she and her family can sleep there is with the doors and windows open; and
- Asked for help to keep her from having to relocate her family and to help with the hazards in the home

The City Manager asked Archie Jones, Human Relations Director to meet with Ms. Bell outside the City Council Chamber.

- ***Sam Battle:***

- Stated there are property owners in Rocky Mount that do not care about their properties and are way behind on taxes and he feels these properties should be taken; and
- Said he does not want to see votes made by Councilmembers being based on it being election time;

- ***Antionette Cutler:***

- Stated she lost her daughter on September 20, 2021;
- Thanked Councilmembers Knight, Blackwell, Joyner, and Walker for everything they have done for her family;
- Stated she had stepped away from her position in the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and is attempting to step back into her role;
- Stated her daughter developed COVID while in the hospital giving birth and was sent home before having proper time to recover; and
- Would like to see a wing at the hospital for women who develop COVID while in the hospital to provide care until they have fully recovered

- ***Morrie Minges:***

- Stated she was told that the man who owned the old Ebony and Ivory building was having it cleaned up, but it is worse now because there are mattresses over the fence;
- Stated she was sent a letter about her grass being too high one time and she feels he should be sent letters about his property;
- Asked about a building in the Beaver Pond area that has windows blacked out and the doors locked; and
- Asked who is responsible for making sure people who get grants are doing what they are supposed to do with the money

Mayor Roberson closed the public petitions portion of the meeting.

#### **PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

The City Council received the minutes and recommendations from a Planning Board meeting held December 14, 2021. The minutes are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

The following action was taken upon the recommendations of the Planning Board:

#### **A. PUBLIC HEARING/REZONING REQUEST**

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to the following rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Board:

- Request by City of Rocky Mount to rezone ±7.34 acres at 265 Wake Street from I-2CD to R-10

Will Deaton, Director of Development Services, gave an overview of the request.

No one from the public appeared and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Ordinance No. O-2022-1** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

**ANNEXATION NO. 322 - OLD SPRING HOPE ROAD SUBDIVISION-WILLIAMS LOTS (4)**

The Mayor recognized City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney to explain the feasibility study prepared in connection with the annexation by the Department of Planning and Development. The City Manager called on the Director of the Department of Development Services Will Deaton. Mr. Deaton explained the report and concluded by recommending approval of the annexation. A copy of the report is on file with Annexation No. 322 in the office of the City Clerk.

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to Annexation No. 322 and no one appeared. The Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that receipt of the feasibility study be acknowledged and that **Ordinance No. O-2022-2** entitled **ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT/ANNEXATION NO. 322 - OLD SPRING HOPE ROAD SUBDIVISION-WILLIAMS LOTS (4)** be adopted. The City Council was advised that the property will be located in Ward 5.

**ANNEXATION NO. 323 - OLD SPRING HOPE ROAD SUBDIVISION-HORTON LOTS (20)**

The Mayor recognized City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney to explain the feasibility study prepared in connection with the annexation by the Department of Planning and Development. The City Manager called on the Director of the Department of Development Services Will Deaton. Mr. Deaton explained the report and concluded by recommending approval of the annexation. A copy of the report is on file with Annexation No. 323 in the office of the City Clerk.

The Mayor opened a public hearing relative to Annexation No. 323 and no one appeared. The Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that receipt of the feasibility study be acknowledged and that **Ordinance No. O-2022-3** entitled **ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT/ANNEXATION NO. 322 - OLD SPRING HOPE ROAD SUBDIVISION-HORTON LOTS (20)** be adopted. The City Council was advised that the property will be located in Ward 5.

**PROPERTY DISPOSITION/HOME PURCHASE AGREEMENT-811 AND 815-821 HAMMOND STREET**

The City Clerk advised the City Council that an offer of \$40,000 from Michael Lewis to purchase 811 and 815-821 Hammond Street was advertised for upset bids pursuant to G.S. 160A-269 and no upset bids were received.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Resolution No. R-2022-1** entitled **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY** be adopted.

The resolution authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Home Purchase Agreement described above and provides for the City to sell the property to Michael Lewis for the agreed-upon amount and to execute the deed transferring ownership of said property upon fulfillment of the obligations contained in said Home Purchase Agreement.

**PROPERTY DISPOSITION/HOME PURCHASE AGREEMENT-659 WEST RALEIGH BOULEVARD**

The City Clerk advised the City Council that an offer of \$3,410 from Michael Lewis to purchase 659 West Raleigh Boulevard was advertised for upset bids pursuant to G.S. 160A-269 and no upset bids were received.

Motion was made by Councilmember Walker, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Resolution No. R-2022-2** entitled **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTY** be adopted.

The resolution authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Home Purchase Agreement described above and provides for the City to sell the property to Michael Lewis for the agreed-upon amount and to execute the deed transferring ownership of said property upon fulfillment of the obligations contained in said Home Purchase Agreement.

**ROCKY MOUNT TRANSIT/FY 2020 5311 CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES ACT) TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT AGREEMENT/GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE**

The City Council was provided with a supplemental agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the FY 2020 5311 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES ACT) Transit Grant Program. The supplemental agreement approves additional funding in the amount of \$358,445 and will assist in funding operating expenses related to Tar River Transit's Rural General Public program. The Council was further advised that total grant funding equals \$1,140,950.

The City Council was provided with a Grant Project Ordinance Amendment Appropriating the Supplemental Funding (\$358,445).

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7

ayes/0 nays) that the supplemental grant agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City; and that **Ordinance No. O-2022-4** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/RURAL TRANSIT OPERATING CARES ACT PROJECT** be adopted.

**HOME RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT FIRST AMENDMENT (CORRECTED)**

The City Council was provided with a corrected First Amendment to the HOME Reinvestment Partnership Fund Reconciliation Agreement between the City, Nash County, Edgecombe County, Town of Tarboro, and Town of Sharpsburg approved by Council on November 8, 2021. The agreement provides for the return of HOME funds to the members of the Down East HOME Consortium that were spent by the City during the years of 2013 through 2016.

The City Council was advised that the corrected amendment reflects the following allocations for HOME funds to be returned:

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>ALLOCATION</b>
<b>Nash County</b>	<b>\$1,047,858</b>
<b>Edgecombe County</b>	<b>\$475,773</b>
<b>Tarboro</b>	<b>\$125,991</b>
<b>Sharpsburg</b>	<b>\$153,571</b>

The corrected First Amendment to the HOME Reinvestment Partnership Fund Reconciliation Agreement reflects that Nash County will administer HOME FY 21-22 funds as follows:

<b>JURISDICTION</b>	<b>ALLOCATION</b>
<b>Middlesex</b>	<b>\$5,243</b>
<b>Spring Hope</b>	<b>\$7,363</b>
<b>Whitakers</b>	<b>\$2,489</b>

and the Town of Sharpsburg will administer its HOME FY 21-22 allocation of \$15,720.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the corrected First Amendment to the HOME Reinvestment Partnership Fund Reconciliation Agreement be approved and that the City Manager and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City. The amendment shall be filed with the original agreement identified as **(C-2021-32)** in the Office of the City Clerk.

**GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/AMENDMENTS**

The City Council received the following project ordinances/ordinance amendments:

- a. **Ordinance No. O-2022-5** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/ BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT** - appropriates grant funds from U.S. Department of Justice 2021 Bulletproof Vest Grant in the Public Safety Fund (\$38,454) to be used to purchase bulletproof vests for Police;



- b. **Ordinance No. O-2022-6** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/ EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE GRANT** - appropriates grant funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program of the U.S. Department of Justice in the Public Safety Fund (\$38,909; City share = \$23,345 [60%] and Nash County share = \$15,564 [40%]; and
- c. **Ordinance No. O-2022-7** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 21-22/SENIOR CENTER GENERAL PURPOSE GRANT** - appropriates grant funds from the Senior Center General Purpose Grant from the Upper Coastal Plain Area Agency on Aging to the General Fund (\$10,693) to be used for support and development of programming, general operation, and facility improvements at the Rocky Mount Senior Center

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the ordinances listed above be adopted.

**DEMOLITION ORDINANCE**

The City Council received an ordinance ordering the Community Code Inspector to proceed with demolition of the following substandard properties:

- a) 2000 Vernon Road
- b) 320 Olive Street
- c) 1012 Niblick Drive

Councilmember Miller asked how the Niblick Drive property moved so quickly to the demolition process. The City Manager called on staff to address Councilmember Miller's question. Kelly Cooke, Community Code Administrator, stated the property moved quickly through the process because fire damaged properties are treated as high priority when it comes to demolition.

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-2022-8** entitled **ORDINANCE ORDERING THE COMMUNITY CODE INSPECTOR TO PROCEED TO DEMOLISH CERTAIN DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES PURSUANT TO THE HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** be adopted.

**GRANT/FY 2022 NASH COUNTY FOUNDATION TO REDUCE THE USE OF DRUGS GRANT**

The City Council was advised that the City is eligible to receive \$7,500 through the Nash County Foundation to Reduce the Use of Drugs Grant Program. If awarded, the funds would be divided between the Police Department's PAL and Explorer programs. The funds would be used for equipment, activities and supplies for the programs throughout the year.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that staff be authorized to submit the grant application and that the Mayor, City Clerk and/or appropriate staff be authorized to execute any required documentation, including the

final application and subsequent grant agreement, certifications, and assurances on behalf of the City.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL/BUCKET TRUCK**

The City Council received a request from Chris Beschler, Director of Energy Resources, to declare a bucket truck (Altec model 7400) as surplus to the needs of the Department of Energy Resources and for approval for the donation of said bucket truck to Nash Community College to be used in its Electric Lineman Training Program.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Resolution No. R-2022-3** entitled **RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING DONATION** be adopted.

**CONVEYANCE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY/PUBLIC PURPOSE**

City Council was advised that the following properties were acquired and renovated with Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds. The City is in the process of closing out the NSP grant project and disposition of these properties is part of the close out process. The recommendation is to convey 101 Ligustrum Court and 132-138 Nandina Court to South Eastern North Carolina Community Development Corporation, a non-profit, to be used for public purposes pursuant to NCGS §160A-279.

Motion was made by Councilmember Knight, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that **Resolution No. R-2022-4** entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO SOUTH EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 160A - 279** be adopted. This Resolution approves donation of the properties listed above and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the deeds transferring the property to the respective non-profits on behalf of the City, subject to legal review and publication of the required public notice.

**BID/69KV BREAKER DESIGN PROJECT**

The City Council was informed that proposals were received and opened on June 24, 2021, for the design of (3) three 69KV Breakers for Substations 10, 12 and the North Point of Delivery (POD) after all necessary legal procedures, including newspaper advertising, had been implemented. The solicitation was also posted on the City's purchasing webpage and the North Carolina Interactive Purchasing System website. The bid tabulation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2022-1**.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Walker, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) the bid contract be awarded to Booth and Associates at

a total cost of \$280,000 and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the bid contract on behalf of the City. The Council was advised that 10% of the project will be subcontracted to Select Power Systems, a certified MWBE firm.

**COMMUNITY LAND TRUST MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The City Council was provided with a Community Land Trust Management Services Contract with Cedar Grove Institute for Sustainable Communities for Services Relative to the Formation and Development of a Community Land Trust (total costs not to exceed \$230,000; to be paid from American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] funds.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that consideration of the item be tabled.

**HOUSING INCENTIVE GRANTS**

The City Council was provided with a recommendation for the allocation of \$805,000 in housing incentive funds to the following agencies:

a. Hillsdale Neighborhood Association	\$50,000
b. Around the Y Community Organization	\$100,000
c. Truth Tabernacle Ministries	\$40,000
d. Berkshire Community	\$150,000
e. Peacemakers of Rocky Mount, Inc.	\$25,000
f. Big Wolfe Enterprises	\$75,000
g. Triple Cee Property	\$25,000
h. East End Baptist Church	\$100,000
i. Grandma's House, LLC	\$175,000
j. Ripple Effects	\$25,000
k. Bland Premier Properties	\$40,000

Council was advised the funds budgeted for the current year are \$500,000 but there are unspent funds from prior years available to support funding the projects.

A motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell and seconded by Councilmember Joyner. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker explained the purpose of the subcommittee and noted that the additional \$305,000 in funding is from unspent funds from prior years.

Councilmember Daughtridge stated he feels there were legitimate concerns raised during the public petitions portion of the meeting and that he has raised concerns about this same issue previously. He also stated not having a Finance Director in place creates additional concerns.

Councilmember Knight stated the grants were not just handed out and the organizations were vetted through staff. He added there is a compliance officer to make sure the work is completed before money is awarded.

Councilmember Blackwell stated this is a Council Initiative Program and they are looking to build the communities up from the inside out. He stated the goal is to work with the people who live in the community and have investment in the community.

Councilmember Joyner stated that as Mayor Pro Tem, he spent time making sure applications were given to the City Council if there were programs in their Wards that they wanted included in the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker said it appears a correction may be needed on the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association application.

Councilmember Knight stated the original motion could be amended to reflect that staff would assist with amending the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association application as appropriate.

The motion carried by a roll call vote (6 ayes/1 nay; Councilmember Daughtridge opposed) that the funding be approved as recommended, contingent upon amendment of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association's application as appropriate; and that **Ordinance No. O-2022-9** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 21-22 FOR INCREASE OF COUNCIL HOUSING INCENTIVES** be adopted. **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF QVC ROCKY MOUNT DISTRIBUTION CENTER AND EMPLOYEES/RATIFICATION**

The City Council was provided with a resolution in support of the QVC Rocky Mount Distribution Center and Employees.

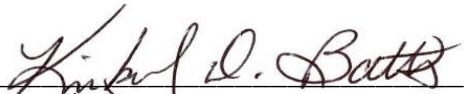
Motion was made by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried by roll call vote (7 ayes/0 nays) that the action taken pursuant to a poll of the City Council to approve the resolution be formally ratified and that **Resolution R-2022-5** entitled **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF QVC ROCKY MOUNT DISTRIBUTION CENTER AND EMPLOYEES** be approved and adopted.

**APPOINTMENTS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Council meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



Kimberly D. Batts  
Deputy City Clerk