

November 28, 2022

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular session scheduled for 4:00 p.m. in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building with Mayor C. Saunders "Sandy" Roberson, Jr. presiding.

Councilmembers present: André D. Knight, Reuben C. Blackwell, IV., Richard Joyner, T.J. Walker, Jr., Lige Daughtridge, Tom Harris and Jabaris Walker.

Staff present: Peter F. Varney, Interim City Manager; Kim Batts, City Clerk; Brad Kerr, Public Works Director; Will Deaton, Director of Development Services; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Brenton Bent, Water Resources Director; 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; Michael Roupp, Assistant Chief of Operations; Darvin Moore, Division Chief; Ken Hunter, Assistant to the City Manager for Budget and Evaluation; Robert Hassell, Police Chief; Chris Beschler, Energy Resources Director; Kevin Harris, Downtown Development Manager; Cornelia McGee, Interim Community Development Director; Kirk Brown, Director of Communications and Marketing; Keyana Walston, Management Analyst; Jayson Dawkins, Policy Analyst; Kena Cofield-Jones, Director of Human Resources; Kream Mosley, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officers: Police Sergeant Stephen Walker and Senior Police Officer Shawn Battle.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 Harris, and unanimously carried the minutes of Regular Scheduled City Council meeting held on September 12, 2022, be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Roberson stated he had received the following requests to amend the agenda:

- request to remove item 8E from the Consent Agenda;
- request to remove the approval of plan amendment from the recommended action on item 9 - the items will come back to City Council on December 12, 2022 for approval
- consideration of scheduling a Special Called Committee of the Whole meeting for December 1, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of a closed session relative to a personnel matter

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Harris, and unanimously carried that the agenda be amended as requested.

**COMMUNITY UPDATE BY INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

Interim City Manager Peter F. Varney provided the following community update. The Interim City Manager:

- Stated yesterday was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's historical I have a Dream Speech that was delivered in Rocky Mount - said it was celebrated today and displayed a photo of the individuals that came to the celebration
- Played a two-minute promotional video about Downtown Rocky Mount
- Stated that City Council had been provided a draft of a downtown visitors guide that includes the following information: details on 11 downtown restaurants and 18 shopping establishments, information about the Rocky Mount Event Center, the Imperial Center, information about the downtown murals and a locator map –stated there is still a little more work to be done on it but when it is complete it will be distributed at the event center during sports tournaments, at area hotels and at downtown businesses
- Stated the visitors guide will be updated every quarter
- Open House for the Downtown Development New Offices - Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. - 132 SW Main Street
- Upcoming holiday events - City Lake Lighting, Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. – free event with carriage rides, visits with Santa, an inflatable play area, DJ, and vendors
- Annual Christmas Parade to be held on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. on Main Street
- Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring an Economic Development Summit at the Event Center on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 a.m.
- Christmas play - The Best Christmas Pageant Ever will be held at the Imperial Centre December 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>
- Stated the Winter Wonderland event will be held December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. – includes Santa, arts, crafts and inflatable play areas

Councilmember Blackwell expressed appreciation to the City staff for pulling together the program for this morning on Dr. King's groundbreaking history making speech in Rocky Mount 60 years ago. He stated he also wanted to express appreciation of the photo that came from the collection of JB Herron, a black historian who wrote in The Carolinian and in the evening telegram. He stated Mr. Herron was also the founder of OIC. Councilmember Blackwell stated the JB Herron historic collection was bequeathed to Councilmember André Knight by the family because of his love of history. Councilmember Blackwell stated he feels it should be noted on that photo.

**PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor opened the meeting for petitions from the public and outlined guidelines for public petitions. He informed citizens if they listed on their sign in sheet, they were there for a public hearing that he would wait until the public hearing to recognize them. He called on the following individuals for public comment and a summary of comments is outlined below:

**Dr. Kim Koo**

- Stated that she thought the video of downtown was great but she wanted to know if there was going to be enough people to spend the money in the shops that were going to be open given the hardships being seen right now

- Stated that at least 10 public hearings have been held to discuss the plan on how to spend about 5 million American Rescue dollars
- Stated that the areas brought up in the meetings ranged from infrastructure, to education, and to housing
- Stated people have now found out that there is a proposal for a \$20 million dollar judicial center
- Stated if the financing came from a special obligation bond then the citizens of Rocky Mount wouldn't be allowed to vote on this, no referendum would be needed, and citizens would have no voice
- Asked why a new judicial center was needed

***Bill Johnson -***

- Stated that he is a board member with Preservation Rocky Mount and he feel there is a misconception of what they do
- Stated at the last council meeting the gentlemen that owns Marigold street mentioned that they contacted him to harvest items from the property, but this was only done because the house was on the demolition list and Preservation Rocky Mount wanted to try to salvage items
- Stated in 2003 the Preservation Rocky Mount opened a store in order to try to store and preserve items for those who are restoring older properties in the area, for those who want to enhance newer properties, or even complete DIY projects
- Stated that everything harvested is part of the structure of the house nothing is considered a personal property/items
- Stated that architectural salvage & membership dues are the only sources of income for Preservation of Rocky Mount to fund projects such as historical neighborhood tours, downtown tours and educational meetings on how to maintain/repair historic properties
- Stated that PRM wasn't looking for any kind of exclusive agreement with the city, just the opportunity to go in and salvage items from houses on the demolition list
- Stated that PRM is 100% volunteer non-profit organization
- Asked that the city/council members reconsider giving Preservation Rocky Mount permission to salvage items prior to the demolition of the properties

***Reverend Nehemiah Smith -***

- Stated that he wanted to thank the city staff for the enlightening program this morning
- Stated that food insecurity is a big issue
- Stated Mount Zion First Baptist Church is having the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Feed the City
- Stated the Feed the City event is more than a plate of food; it includes prayer, helping with job placement and help with substance abuse
- Invited everyone on City Council and city employees to come out to volunteer
- Stated that they were also conducting a coat drive and toy drive this year
- Stated that he appreciates the City's help with this & next year he hopes to have multiple locations set up for Feed the City
- Stated their goal was to feed 5,000 people
- Stated the event is Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The City Council received the following schedule of ad valorem taxes recommended for release and/or refund:

**SCHEDULE A - acknowledge receipt of report of the following taxes under \$100 approved for release and/or refund by the City Manager:**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>		<u>COMMENT</u>
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>					
2022	734	MARLIN LEASING CORPORATION PROPERTY TAX DEPT PO BOX 5481 MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	9.01	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
			<b>9.01</b>		
2022	2345	URGENT CARES OF AMERICA HOLDINGS LLC FASTMED URGENT CARE 115 E PARK DR, #300 BRENTWOOD TN 37027 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	85.80	PEN	LATE LIST REMOVAL
			<b>85.80</b>		
2022	2346	URGENT CARES OF AMERICA HOLDINGS LLC FASTMED URGENT CARE 115 E PARK DR, #300 BRENTWOOD TN 37027 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	50.82	PEN	LATE LIST REMOVAL
			<b>50.82</b>		
2022	2451	WELLS FARGO VENDOR FINANCIAL SERV LLC PO BOX 36200 BILLINGS, MT 59107 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	42.87	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
			<b>42.87</b>		

**SCHEDULE B - taxes over \$100 recommended for release and/or refund  
by the City Council:**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>NAME/ADDRESS</u>	<u>TAX</u>		<u>COMMENT</u>
<u>NASH COUNTY</u>					
2022	2181	MILLS, ERADER A JR 8364 SAVAGE RD SPRING HOPE NC 27882 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	215.80	CITY	OWNER CORRECTION
			<b>215.80</b>		
2022	20055	PEACEMAKERS OF ROCKY MOUNT INCORPORATED OFF N CHURCH ST ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	1,033.67	CITY	VALUATION CORRECTION
			<b>1,033.67</b>		
2022	1624	WOOLARD WILLIAM A SR & DONNA JO BAILEY WOOLARD 1204 WEST MOUNT DR ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27803 <b>TOTAL RELEASE:</b>	308.25	CITY	ELDERLY/DISABLED EXEMPTION
			<b>308.25</b>		

The recommended action is to approve the tax releases.

**B. FY 2022-2023 ORDINANCES:**

Consideration was given to the following Ordinances for FY 2022-2023:

- Project Ordinance Amendments were adopted as a single project ordinance on July 25, 2022 in error; NCDOT requires the project ordinances to be adopted individually:
  - 1) **Ordinance No. O-2022-76** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/ FY 2023 URBAN TRANSIT CAPITAL PROJECT** - Urban Transit Operating (\$441,893)
  - 2) **Ordinance No. O-2022-77** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/ FY 2023 URBAN TRANSIT OPERATING PROJECT** - Urban Transit Capital (\$150,000)
- Project Ordinances FY 2022-2023
  - 1) **Ordinance No. O-2022-78** entitled **GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE/ BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT** - appropriates grant funds from U.S. Department of Justice 2022 Bulletproof Vest Grant in the Public Safety Fund (\$26,250) to be used to purchase bulletproof vests for Police;
  - 2) **Ordinance No. O-2022-79** 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 (\$43,917; City share = \$26,350.20 [60%] and Nash County share = \$17,566.80 [40%];

The recommended action is to adopt the ordinances.

**C. LEASE AGREEMENT - ROCKY MOUNT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The City Council was provided with the following lease agreement with the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce for City-Owned Property

- 101 Coastline Street (4,800 square ft on second floor/400 square ft on the third floor); 3-year lease; annual rent = \$13,200; term January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2026)

The recommended action is to adopt **Resolution No. R-2022-71** entitled **RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO LEASE OR RENT PROPERTY** be adopted. This Resolution authorize the City Clerk to advertise the Notice of Intent to approve said lease agreement.

**D. LEASE AGREEMENT - TAR RIVER TRANSIT**

Consideration was given to a lease agreement with Tar River Transit (another governmental unit) for City-Owned Property at 101 Coastline Street. The main terms of the lease were outlined as follows:

- 5-year lease; annual rent = \$21,504;
- term January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2028

The Council was provided a resolution by the City Attorney, Jep Rose, to authorize the agreement.

The recommended action is to adopt **Resolution No. R-2022-72** entitled **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FIVE (5) YEAR LEASE FOR THE TAR RIVER TRANSIT OFFICE.**

This resolution authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Lease Agreement with Tar River Transit (another governmental unit) (**C-2022-59**) on behalf of the City.

**E. LEASE AGREEMENT - 152 EAST THOMAS STREET**

The City Council voted to remove this item from the agenda during additions/deletions from the agenda.

**F. NONPROFIT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH MOUNT ZION FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

The City Council was provided with a funding agreement with Mount Zion Baptist Church for the Third Annual "Feed the City" event. It was noted that the City has funded the request in 2020 and 2021.

The recommended action is to approve agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

**G. FY 2022 INSTALLMENT PURCHASE CONTRACT - EQUIPMENT**

The City Council was advised that requests for proposals (RFPs) were received and opened on November 14, 2022 to provide an installment financing contract for the purpose of financing the purchase of equipment listed on RFP 2022IFC-1 in the amount of \$5,128,000 for 59 months. It was noted the RFP was mailed to 23 firms with 3 responding and staff recommends the Council adopt a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of the installment financing for the following equipment:

- **59-month term (\$5,128,000)**
  - \$ 68,000 Leaf Collection Machine
  - \$ 143,000 ROW Mowing Tractor
  - \$ 349,000 Front Loader
  - \$ 212,000 Rear Loader
  - \$1,158,000 (3) Side Loaders
  - \$ 151,000 Sign Service Truck Utility Body
  - \$ 116,000 Backhoe
  - \$ 74,000 Tractor Mower
  - \$ 312,000 (4) Dump Body Crew Cabs
  - \$2,000,000 Point of Delivery Transformer
  - \$ 250,000 Substation 1 Equipment
  - \$ 179,000 Camera Van
  - \$ 116,000 Backhoe

The Council was advised that the most favorable rate was received from JP Morgan Chase Bank which proposes to finance purchase of the equipment at the fixed interest rate of 3.77% for the 59-month term.

This resolution authorizes the Mayor, the Interim Finance Director and the City Manager, or any one of them, to execute and deliver an installment financing agreement consistent with the BAPCC Proposal, to execute certificates and documents, and to take all such further action as may be considered necessary or desirable to carry out the financing of the equipment as contemplated by the JP Morgan Chase Bank Proposal and this resolution.

The recommended action is that **Resolution No. R-2022-73** entitled **RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM JP MORGAN CHASE BANK TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT** be adopted.

**H. ELECTRIC SERVICE AGREEMENT/TIDAL DATA SYSTEMS, LLC**

The City Council received an electric service agreement with Tidal Data Systems, LLC that outlines the terms and conditions for the purchase of electric power.

The recommended action is to approve the service agreement with Tidal Data Systems, LLC **(C-2022-60)** and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City.

**I. HVAC SERVICE CONTRACT**

The City Council received a request to amend the HVAC Service contract with Allred Mechanical Services. The amendment is needed to replace the unit at the Senior Center Pool. The total cost consists of the base price of \$228,560, plus an alternate in the amount of \$9,110.

The recommended action is to approve the contract amendment with Allred Mechanical Services in the amount of \$237,670 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract amendment on behalf of the City. The amendment will be placed on file with the original bid contract in the City Clerk's office **(BD-2022-25)**.

**J.1 BID/ONE (1) 2023 FORD F550 SUPER CAB CHASSIS**

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase one (1) 2023 Ford F550 Super Cab Chassis through Sourcewell, a competitive group purchasing program which allows purchases to be made through competitive bidding and offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e) (3). Sourcewell advertised as required by law and bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2022-43**.

The recommended action is that the bid be awarded to Alan Jay Fleet Sales @ a total cost of \$217,574 pursuant to Sourcewell Contract 110421-ALT - Public Utility Equipment with Related Accessories and Supplies and that staff be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

**J.2 BID/ONE (1) ARTICULATING TELESCOPIC AERIAL DEVICE WITH HANDLING INSULATED**

The City Council received a recommendation to purchase one (1) Articulating Telescopic Aerial Device with Handling Insulated through Sourcewell, a competitive group purchasing program which allows purchases to be made through competitive bidding and offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-129(e) (3). Sourcewell advertised as required by law and bid documentation is on file in the office of the City Clerk as **BD-2022-44**.

The recommended action is that the bid be awarded to Altec Industries, Inc. @ a total cost of \$244,450 pursuant to Sourcewell Contract 091521-NAF - Automobiles, SUVs, Vans, and Light Trucks with

Related equipment and Accessories and that staff be authorized to issue a purchase order for the equipment in accordance with the Council's award.

Motion was made by Councilmember T.J. Walker, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that the Consent Agenda be approved inclusive of approval of the tax releases, authorization for the Mayor, City Clerk or Interim City Manager to Execute Any Required Documentation for the above referenced Contracts, Agreements and Leases and adoption of the ordinances and resolutions.

**PUBLIC HEARING/2021 Annual Action Plan HOME - American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Substantial Amendment**

The City Council was provided the following information from Cornelia McGee, Interim Community Development Director:

- The US Department of Housing and Urban Development provides \$5 billion in HOME funds to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter
- Rocky Mount & DEHC Allocation: \$1,476,477 - Deadline for spending all funds: Sept 30, 2030
- Qualifying populations are defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
  - Homeless; At-risk of homelessness, Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary
  - Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria: (a) Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and (b) Those at greatest risk of housing instability
- The planning process was conducted during the months of March through August, where 100 stakeholders were invited to participate in stakeholder meetings
- During the meetings numerous data sources were analyzed to identify the priority needs of the Qualifying Populations
- HOME-ARP budget based on priority needs was developed
- Needs identified by stakeholders:
  - o Housing Needs -
    - More safe, decent, and affordable rental units
    - Resources for rental assistance to prevent homelessness
    - To engage landlords with affordable units for vulnerable populations
    - Additional emergency shelter capacity
  - o Supportive Service Needs:
    - Case management
    - Searching for/ obtaining affordable housing
    - Assistance to obtain critical documents
    - Job training/ education support
    - Childcare
    - Transportation
    - Mental and behavioral health services
    - Drug and alcohol treatment/ counseling services



- Households that received NC HOPE Program rental assistance:
  - Edgecombe County: 4,232 assisted with an average payment of \$4,820 with \$102 for utilities
  - Nash County: 5,219 assisted with an average payment of \$4,558 with \$150 for utilities
- Affordable Housing Gaps:
  - Rocky Mount: 2,890 rental units affordable to 0-50% AMI
  - Edgecombe County: 2,465 rental units affordable to 0-50% AMI
- Rocky Mount area medium income is up to \$25,985

Rocky Mount's/DEHC's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan proposes the following eligible activities and budget amounts to be implemented in the City and Edgecombe County:

Development of Affordable Housing	\$1,255,006.00
Administration and Planning	\$ 221,471.00
Total Allocation	<u>\$1,476,477.00</u>

The City Council was further advised that a draft of the Substantial Amendment, which includes the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, will be available for public review and comment beginning November 12, 2022 and ending December 5, 2022 and a copy of the draft document is available at the following locations during regular business hours:

Office of Community Development  
 Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building  
 331 S. Franklin Street  
 Rocky Mount, NC 27802  
 PUBLIC HEARING (same address): Monday, November 28, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chamber on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Planning & Development Department  
 Edgecombe County Administration Building  
 201 St. Andrews Street  
 Tarboro, NC 27886  
 PUBLIC HEARING (same address): Monday, December 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

City Council was also advised the approved plan must be submitted to HUD on or before December 16, 2022.

Councilmember Blackwell asked about the process of collecting the data and asked if it was possible to expand the data to youth that may be having to stay at friends' houses because they are homeless. He stated he knows the data is difficult to collect and that Mrs. McGee and her staff do an excellent job of working with everyone.

Councilmember Knight confirmed with Mrs. McGee that anyone else that wanted to speak on the matter could attend the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Edgecombe County.

Mrs. McGee responded that they could do that, or they could submit their comments in writing.

Councilmember Knight asked if Nash County had a public hearing and Mrs. McGee explained that Nash County is no longer a part of the consortium.

Councilmember Harris asked if there was a way to find a lower costs per unit than the estimated \$200,000 so more units could be made available.

Mrs. McGee stated they were looking at possibly working with other developers to help leverage additional funding for the project, but for these particular funds, they were allocating to at least be able to assist with constructing four to five rental units. Mrs. McGee also stated they were looking to partner with South Eastern North Carolina Community Development Corporation, which is an extension of the Rocky Mountain housing authority, to potentially leverage dollars there.

The Mayor opened a public hearing to receive public comments relative to the proposed Annual Action Plan HOME - American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Substantial Amendment. The following individuals spoke:

***Adrienne Copland***

- Stated that if there are only 5 units built for that amount of money, it will cost more to build new than to refurbish houses that need repairs and working to build back neighborhoods that need help
- Asked if there was a way to partner with private investors to help with the cost of rehabilitation of houses
- Stated that if too much money is spent on building or refurbishing houses it will cause the mortgage/rent to be unaffordable and defeat the purpose
- Stated that partnering with an investor would cut down on the cost and enable the mortgage/rent to be more affordable
- Stated it takes a lot to get these houses built/refurbished so why not target houses on the demolition list instead of paying money to demolish them or foreclose on the homes and put the money into the houses instead of tearing down neighborhoods and building new

***Dr. Kim Koo***

- Stated that she understands that this money will be used to help people in need of housing, not just people without housing but people that live in unideal situations
- Asked if there would be a rental control
- Stated she had met many people that were upset because they couldn't afford to buy single homes because companies were buying them to rent out

Mayor Roberson closed the public hearing.

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO NEIGHBORHOOD RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION INCENTIVE GRANT**

The City Council was provided with a first amendment to a Neighborhood Restoration and Preservation Incentive Agreement with Truth Tabernacle Ministries, Inc. It was noted that City Council approved the grant on July 25, 2002 in the amount of \$40,000 for restoration of a single-housing unit located at 719 Arlington Street. City Council was advised that due to rising construction and material costs, Truth Tabernacle is requesting an amendment to provide an additional \$46,000 in funding for the project. It was stated the repairs to be completed with the grant funds include:

roof, electrical, and plumbing repairs, installation of a HVAC unit, materials and supplies for the repairs of walls, ceilings, floors, appliances for bathroom, kitchen, and laundry room, painting, landscaping, and labor. City Council was also advised that the terms of the amendment state the rehabilitation should be completed by June 30, 2023 and that Truth Tabernacle Ministries will submit project reports to the City.

Councilmember Daughtridge asked if this grant was under the same category as the housing incentive grant.

Interim City Manager Varney clarified that the grant is listed under housing incentive grant in the budget process.

Councilmember Daughtridge requested for the name of the grants to be standardized so it does not create confusion. He additionally stated he was going to vote no to the housing incentive grants because he still has an issue with the with the processes for the grants.

Councilmember Harris stated he looks forward to working with the council next year about this program. He stated he hopes the total City Council can come up with written policies and procedures that would be consistent. He also stated the financial requirements for some of the nonprofit agencies that receive funding is quite extensive. He stated he saw very little language about financial statement requirements in the current agreements for housing incentives.

Councilmember Knight stated the staff is consistent with the housing incentive grants and they have a format and guideline they follow. He stated it is not free money. He stated it has been said many times that if the process is not in the format it needs to be then the work needs to be done to get it there.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell, and carried by a vote of 6-1 (Councilmember Daughtridge opposed) that the first amendment to the Neighborhood Restoration and Preservation Incentive Grant with Truth Tabernacle Ministries, Inc. in the amount of \$46,000 be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the same on behalf of the City. The amendment will be placed on file in the City Clerk's Office with the original agreement **(C-2022-30)**

**HOUSING INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT/EAST END BAPTIST CHURCH**

The City Council was advised that East End Baptist Church had completed the vetting process and is now eligible to receive a housing incentive grant in the amount of \$100,000 to acquire and rehabilitate a home located at 1012 E. Highland Avenue.

Councilmember Harris asked if there were any back taxes on the property that the City would collect when the acquisition takes place.

Interim City Manager Varney stated he was not certain, but he believes there may be some back taxes that would be cleared once the acquisition is complete.

Councilmember Daughtridge asked the City Attorney if he had stated the way the subcommittee meetings were held needed to be changed when it was discussed previously.

City Attorney, Jep Rose, confirmed he did say they were public meetings and public records.

Councilmember Knight stated there has not been another meeting of that subcommittee.

Councilmember Blackwell stated he wanted to reiterate that there are processes in place for the grants. He stated the neighborhoods are improving from the efforts being made. He also stated he appreciates the fact that everyone should be able to communicate when they do not agree with everything, but maybe it could be looked at from the standpoint of how the program could be made better instead of saying it is illegitimate.

Councilmember Joyner asked if Interim City Manager Varney could talk about some of the structural things that are in place to make sure the program is accountable.

Interim City Manager Varney stated that once the allocations are decided that staff meets with a representative from each agencies. He stated staff then requests a set of information about their organization, their board of directors and their finances. He said it may not be stated in the agreement, but the information is in the file.

Councilmember Daughtridge asked if the grant information is listed on the City website, if there is somewhere that shows how much funding is allocated per year, the criteria to qualify and who to contact if someone is interested.

Interim City Manager Varney stated it is not currently on the City's website due to the fact the entities to be vetted for funding have already been identified. He stated if City Council were to appropriate funding again that it could be placed on the City's website.

Councilmember Daughtridge asked how long the City had been providing this funding.

Interim City Manager Varney stated the housing incentive program has been in place since about 2007.

Mayor Robeson called for the question.

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Knight, and carried by a vote (5 ayes/2 nays - Councilmember Daughtridge and Councilmember Harris opposed) that the grant agreement with East End Baptist Church for rehabilitation of 1012 East Highland Avenue **(C-2022-61)** be approved and the Mayor and City Clerk execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Roberson nominated Candace Roberts for the vacancy on the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Motion was made by Councilmember Daughtridge, seconded by Councilmember Joyner, and unanimously carried that the nomination be approved.

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

**PUBLIC PETITIONS (CONTINUED)**

Mayor Roberson stated that due to some issues involving receipt of petition forms, he was going to allow the following people to speak:

***Dr. Teddy Iowana -***

- Stated that she is from Uganda & this is an unusual privilege because she has never stood in front of a City Council
- Stated she came to the US through a government funded community engagement exchange program in September 2022
- Stated that she became part of the program because she is a medical doctor and an advocate for climate change
- Stated that she is cofounder of Climate Smart Initiative where she works with communities back home to implement strategies that improve community health while addressing climate change
- Stated that she envisions a world where humanity recognizes that our wellbeing and that of the planet are interconnected
- Stated she wanted to express gratitude to the Rocky Mount City Council for funding the Baseball and Stem Collective Initiative with the Buck Leonard Association
- Stated that she has been speaking with children about the need to play sports, engage in sports education and environmental conservation

***Brian Burnett -***

- Stated that what the City is doing for preservation Rocky Mount is noble and needed but why focus on two properties out of ten (319 Marigold and 427 Arlington) when there are eight other properties that have been also abandoned
- Stated that he was the only owner out of the ten properties on the demolition list that showed up to try to save their investment
- Stated that one of his other buildings located on 130 SW Main Street was bulgared with a shattered window and this is the second time this has happened causing him to have more things to take care of other than the two properties on the demolition list
- Stated that since the last meeting he had Marigold Street inspected and that people should ride by to see the aesthetically pleasing changes to it
- Stated people that want to work to make their property look better should be allowed to do so and he is in and out of his properties daily making modifications to them
- Stated that he is asking that his properties not be demolished and that nothing from the properties be harvested; he wants to harvest things from the property himself if it comes to that

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Daughtridge that the City Council enter into Closed Session at 5:21 p.m. for discussion relative to Attorney Client - Litigation Bobby M. Clay and Property Acquisition. The minutes of

the Closed Session shall be filed as a part of **ESM-623** at the end of **Minute Book No. 38** upon approval for release by the City Attorney.

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**REGULAR SESSION**

The Mayor convened the meeting in regular session at 6:03 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, by consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.



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Kim Batts  
City Clerk