

MONDAY – 6:30 P.M. JANUARY 29, 2007 CITY/COUNTY MEETING

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met on this date and time in a Joint City and County Meeting at the Albemarle Hospital Education Center. Those attending were: Mayor C. L. Foster, Council members J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, L. A. Hummer, B. S. Meggs, E. K. Rivers, D. K. Stallings, J. A. Stimatz and J. B. Walton. Staff members attending were: City Manager R. C. Olson and City Attorney W. H. Morgan. Also present were members of the Pasquotank County Commissioners, County Manager Randy Keaton, County Attorney Mike Cox, County Clerk Karen Jennings, Mike Etheridge, Solid Waste Director and Jeff Simpson, County Parks and Recreation Director.

Commissioner Chairman Cecil Perry called the business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Foster rendered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1} UPDATE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS PROPERTY:

City Manager R. C. Olson advised that a year ago, the City and County held discussions concerning the Fairgrounds property, which is located in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The property is under the control of the Joint Redevelopment Commission. Over the last year, there has still been quite a bit of illegal dumping going on in this area. City/County crews have cleaned up the site several times. NCDOT has refused to allow the JRC to close or block off the roads within this area. As a means to deter illegal dumping in this area, City/County staff would like to have all brush and trees removed back to approximately Fair Street.

In addition, Council has received a copy of a letter to Clay Foreman concerning drainage issues associated with this area. The ditch from the intersection of Mill and Parsonage Streets to the old Friskies plant is blocked, causing drainage problems on Allstate Builders Supply property and affecting travel on Hughes Boulevard. Staff is working with NCDOT on this issue and will be cleaning and reestablishing the grade on the ditch.

Solid Waste Director Mike Etheridge presented an update on the project by providing pictures showing where the illegal dumping was occurring. He stated that he felt that one way of alleviating the problem would be to clear cut a five acre area at the front of the property and open it so it would be visible from the highway.

It was noted that there are still parcels to be acquired in the back portion of the property.

It was requested the each board consider funding the cleanup and clear cutting of the property. County Manager Keaton was instructed to determine the total investment in this project as well as determining the tax value of the property.

2} UPDATE ON LIBRARY, PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING AND JAIL PROJECTS:

County Manager Keaton advised that the Library and Public Safety Building are on track and are scheduled for completion by the end of March 2007.

He also reported that the construction of the new jail is just beginning. This is a sixteen month project and is scheduled for completion by early 2008.

3} DISCUSSION REGARDING RIVER ROAD PARK PROJECT:

The County Parks and Recreation Director reported on the PARTF grant applications for the River Road and the South Park projects. He feels that the decisions should be made in May of this year. Mr. Simpson stated that he has received inquiries that perhaps a skateboard park and outdoor basketball courts could be added to the site. It is felt that basketball courts might cater to the older high school and college age students thereby causing conflict with the middle school students. At present there are two options for the skateboard park, one at River Road and the other beside the tennis courts on Harney Street.

City Manager R. Olson stated that as the area develops, the City's UDO requires sidewalks on all the streets and a bike path might be considered.

4} DISCUSSION REGARDING PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2007-2008 BUDGET YEAR:

Mr. Olson stated that through the years, the City of Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County have joined together to provide services and facilities for the residents of Pasquotank County. In some instances, it was the result of the two governing bodies studying the issues and reaching a conclusion that it was in the best interest of each to undertake a joint operation or service.

There are many areas where the city and county government co-operate in the provision of services to the residents. Presently the following areas of service are jointly administered through either formal agreements, informal agreements or through a pattern of past practices:

Economic Development
Tax Collections
Recreation Activities and Parks Facilities
Airport
E-911 Emergency Services
Water Distribution and Treatment
Sewer Collection and Treatment
Fire
Geographic Information System
Animal Control
Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.

Both city and county staff have begun preparing for the preparation of our fiscal year 07-08 budgets.

He noted that he is not aware of any substantial increases in any of these budgets above normal increases with the possible exception of Reverse 911. He then reviewed the jointly funded items.

5} OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Perry stated that he would go around the table for comments from each member.

Vice-Chairman Griffin advised that the NCDOT has been asked to coordinate a thoroughfare plan for the area. There is a lot of development taking place along new corridors but there is not any connectivity or smooth transition to the neighborhoods.

Councilman J. A. Stimatz asked for an update on the hotel conference center.

Mr. Olson advised that all of the affected property owners have been contacted and the committee hopes to hear from the pivotal property owners within the next two weeks. Once we hear from them we should have a good idea of the costs to secure the options

Commissioner Bill Trueblood said that the County is working on Stormwater concerns. He wanted to know where the City was currently at on their Stormwater ordinance.

Mr. Olson informed the group that the City hired Pat McDowell about three years ago to conduct a comprehensive drainage study. A copy of that study has been given to the County's engineers, Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates. We have

identified drainage basins and a number of Stormwater projects are presently in the various stages of design.

Councilman J. B. Walton asked if there were any scheduled clean-ups along Simpson Ditch Road due to the debris that falls from the trucks going to the landfill.

Commissioner Wood advised that the Solid Waste Department uses inmate crews to clean up along Simpson Ditch Road.

Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer gave a report on the activities of the Albemarle Economic Development Commission.

Councilwoman J. M. Baker asked for an update on the flooding situations in Northeastern Terrance and Oxford Heights.

Mr. Olson reported that he is waiting to hear from FEMA on the requested grant funds.

Councilman M. E. Brooks expressed his concern that very few residents in Oxford Heights are interested in the buyout program. He also talked about the problem with the gate at the rear of the property being locked and that this needs to be resolved with NCDOT in order that the residents would have a second way to get out of the area in the event of another flood.

6} ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council or Commissioners a motion for adjournment was called.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs to adjourn. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Meggs, Baker, Brooks, Rivers, Stallings, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Foster adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

Charles L. Foster
Mayor