

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City held a special meeting on the above date and time in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building with Mayor J. H. Bell, Jr. presiding. Those attending were: C. C. Austin, J. M. Baker, L. A. Hummer, R. E. King, E. K. Rivers, D. K. Stallings, Sr. and J. B. Walton. Also attending were: City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce, Police Chief W. J. Anderson, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, Public Works Director C. Grant, III, Inspection Director S. E. Ward, Parks and Recreation Director J. D. Overman and Electric Superintendent K. F. Clow. Councilman W. A. Lehmann being absent.

Mayor J. H. Bell, Jr. opened the meeting by welcoming those attending. He called upon Councilman J. B. Walton to give the invocation after which Councilwoman L. A. Hummer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem D. K. Stallings, Sr., seconded by Councilman R. E. King to approve the agenda as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stallings, King, Austin, Baker, Hummer, Rivers and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Mayor J. H. Bell, Jr. called upon City Manager R. C. Olson for pre-budget discussion. Mr. Olson called upon Finance Director S. E. Blanchard who stated that the approved budget has \$11,801,805 in the General Fund, \$27,640,977 in the Electric Fund and \$6,543,876 in the Water and Sewer Fund. In the Budget outlook the expenditures have not increased in recent years due to stagnant General Fund revenues. There has not been a tax increase in eight years. The economy has kept sales tax and interest revenue down. The revenue sources must be identified to fund improvements (tax increase and water & sewer rate increase). The existing debt includes in the General Fund, installment purchases for the BB&T Building/Renovations, City Hall Renovations, police cars, fire pumper, street sweeper, leaf machine and side loader. In the Electric Fund, installment purchase of a bucket truck and electric improvements. In the Water & Sewer Fund there is an installment purchase for the last annexation as well as a state loan for improvements to the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Ms. Blanchard went over the General Fund, Electric Fund and Water & Sewer Fund debt payments. She advised that the debt payment reductions are as follows: General Fund - \$32,872, Electric Fund, \$126,982 and the W & S Fund is \$47,528 for a total reduction of \$97,382. The cost to fund \$1m for ten years is \$129,500, assuming a 5% interest rate. She continued by stating \$7,000,000 is being proposed for the FY2005 Capital Improvements Project. Funding sources are being proposed at a six cent tax increase in the General Fund and a 6% increase in water and sewer rates plus a \$1,000,000 grant funding.

Councilwoman Hummer discussed briefly the fact that there is over a million dollars from the Powell Bill Fund that props up the General Fund Budget. She also expressed her concern over having to raise taxes by 6%.

Councilman J. B. Walton asked if other avenues had been explored for getting additional funds.

Councilwoman J. M. Baker stated that it had been eight years since property taxes had been raised and it is way past the time that we need to do this.

City Manager Olson recognized Public Works Director C. Grant, III for a review of the FY2004-2005 Capital Improvements Projects for the City. Mr. Grant advised that the following are the proposed projects for the coming year:

Crescent Drive – from Parkview to River

Water Line System Renewal	\$ 62,400
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$117,000
Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>\$ 32,700</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$213,000

South Road Street – from Ehringhaus Street to Herrington Road

Water Line System Renewal	\$ 83,200
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$156,000
Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>NCDOT</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$239,200

Baxter Street – from Westover Street to Pritchard Street

Water Line System Renewal	\$124,800
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$234,000
Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>\$ 64,400</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$423,200

West Elizabeth Street – from Road Street to Hughes Boulevard

Water Line System Renewal	\$176,800
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$331,500
Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>NCDOT</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$508,300

Roanoke Avenue – from Road Street to Halstead Boulevard

Water Line System Renewal	\$487,500
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$260,000

Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>NCDOT</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$747,500

West Church Street – from Road Street to Hughes Boulevard

Water Line System Renewal	\$270,400
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$507,000
Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>\$189,000</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$966,400

Southern Avenue – from Shepard Street to Edgewood Drive

Water Line System Renewal	\$343,200
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$643,500
Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>NCDOT</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$986,700

Pearl Street – from Road Street to Poindexter Street

Water Line System Renewal	\$ 10,400
Sewer Rehab/Replacement	\$ 19,500
Street Improvement (milling and overlay)	<u>\$ 5,420</u>
Approximate cost of total project	\$ 35,320

He also stated that \$500,000 is being proposed for sidewalk repair/replacement

The financing aspect of the capital improvement projects was discussed in detail.

Councilman J. B. Walton thanked Mayor Bell for allowing the two special meetings to be called. He has received a lot of very important information from these two meetings. He is also sorry that some feel they should go out and bash other members of Council for calling these meetings. We are all elected to serve the people of Elizabeth City to the best of our ability, therefore, he feels that the knowledge that he gains from meetings such as these last two call meetings helps him to do just that.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a motion was made by Councilwoman J. M. Baker, seconded by Councilwoman C. C. Austin to adjourn the meeting. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Austin, Hummer, King, Rivers, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Mayor J. H. Bell, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

---

Dianne S. Pierce, MMC  
City Clerk

---

John H. Bell, Jr.  
Mayor