

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City held its monthly work session on the above date and time in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building with Mayor C. L. Foster presiding. Those attending were: J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, L. A. Hummer, B. S. Meggs, D. K. Stallings, J. A. Stimatz, J. B. Walton. E. K. Rivers being absent. City Staff attending were City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce-Tamplen, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Deputy Clerk V. D. White, Fire Chief W. C. Pritchard, Public Utilities Director P. Fredette, Planning Director J. C. Brooks, Inspections Director S. E. Ward, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, Parks and Recreation Director J. D. Overman, Interim Police Chief G. F. Koch and Electric Superintendent K. F. Clow.

Mayor C. L. Foster opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. He called upon Councilman M. E. Brooks for the invocation after which Fire Chief W. C. Pritchard led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1} APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor Foster called for action on the prepared agenda.

Councilman D. K. Stallings asked to add to the agenda a *report from the Department Heads*.

A motion was made by Councilwoman J. M. Baker, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to approve the prepared agenda and include the above stated item. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Stimatz, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

2} PRESENTATION – MAYOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NON-PROFIT FUNDING – JOE FRANZESE:

Mayor Foster recognized Mr. Joe Franzese, Chair of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Non-Profit funding.

Mr. Franzese reported that the Committee as charged by the Mayor met quite a number of times since October. Their main objective was to define guidelines that will be fair and equitable to all non-profit organization requesting funding from the City of Elizabeth City. The Committee suggested that the funding be

considered a non-profit grant that would invest in the enhancement and future of Elizabeth City. Such things as how to determine if the request is eligible or ineligible will be determine by the grant application. A check list was created showing the deadline that the applications should be presented to the City Manager's office. The application itself consists of four pages to be completed by the non-profit organization requesting funds from the City. Also included was information for the decision making process which showed four sample categories. It was suggested to have a discretionary amount that the City Council could use when and if some group came before Council and requested a set amount for something that was taking place within the year such as the Blazers Team or Fireworks. Finally, an accountability sheet was prepared that would make the non-profit organization accountable for the funds disperse by the City.

Several members of Council express their appreciation to the committee and expressed that they felt the Committee did a very good job.

It was felt that members of Council should study the proposal and if they had any concerns or additions to present them back to the committee to be included in the document.

3} PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES FOR CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Foster called upon City Attorney W. H. Morgan for comments.

Mr. Morgan stated that he was in the process of obtaining sample procedures from different cities and he would ask that this item be tabled for tonight and brought back for a report at the March Work Session.

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman D. K. Stallings to table this item and have it brought back to the March Work Session. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Stallings, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

4} APPEARANCE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Mayor Foster called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson replied that Councilman Rivers had requested that Sandra Wood, resident of North Road Street be placed on the work session agenda to discuss her concerns about North Road Street.

Ms. Woods expressed her concerns regarding North Road Street. Her concerns include the re-routing of industry vehicles, request to reduce speed signs, reducing the speed limit, installing seven traffic lights between the two lights that now regulate the traffic and the installation of speed bumps to slow the traffic down.

Mr. Olson stated that several months ago, city staff, along with Councilman Stimatz met with DOT officials to discuss these items. NCDOT does not allow the installation of "No Thru Trucks" Signs. NCDOT's preferred enforcement mechanism is to post axle limits on the road way. North Road Street has been limited to 6.5 tons, which would limit most truck traffic. However, if the vehicle is making a local delivery and can provide a manifest to that effect, they would be exempt. Installation of additional traffic signals would not be approved by NCDOT due to the lack of warrants needed to justify each light. Each light would cost approximately \$150,000 each. If City Council would like to have the speed limit reduced to 25 mph, Councilors would need to pass a resolution requesting NCDOT to do that. Finally, due to limited amount of funds, North Road Street has not been included in the NCDOT TIP next year.

5} COMMITTEE RE PORTS;

Mayor Foster advised that he would call upon each representative of the various committees for their report.

Albemarle Economic Development Commission

Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer reported that they are in the process of the first reading of the applications received for the Executive Director position. We have received thirty applications. We also have in place a Committee Image Committee chaired by Councilwoman Meggs. We have the college, university, schools, hospital, Coast Guard and many other entities working together. We are trying to put together a package that will better inform those people who are planning to move to Elizabeth City.

Councilman Meggs stated that her report is on the Image Committee as well as the Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. A lot of her report is overlapping. She thinks that the image group is really taking into consideration what we can do to make this city and this area more inviting to people. One of the concerns that came out in our meeting this past week was the police department that we know we have all these vacancies. We feel that if we could get those filled that would be a relief to some of the citizens. There was also a discussion about the skate boarding and that we need to think in terms of a park. We had one of our members that is on the Committee, Debbie Leeke, and she is an employee of the hospital but she also is on the Board of the Pathways. She has told us that there

is some non-matching funds that she was familiar with and she was going to see what she could bring back to the committee the next time. This will need to come before the City and the County as this should be a joint project. Then we discussed the beautification of downtown. We discussed that we need to have a symbol for the area and there were several suggestions that came up. She will bring some more about the logo later on. Also, the Potato Festival which is May 18-19, 2007 and our special guest will be the Embers. We had Captain Mark Rose at the meeting and he had several ideas that he wanted to report. There is a plane P-3 that will go in and out during a hurricane and evaluate the storm. That will be working with Christy Saunders. There will be invitations sent to all the City people and then as well as the public. The public will be invited to go out and see what is going on and that is on May 3rd. The school students will also be involved. Finally, on August 3rd, the Coast Guard will have their annual picnic day and we have talked with Captain Rose about what we as a city can do to let the Coast Guard know that we feel they are valuable to our community. One of the things suggested was that we help them with the picnic.

Councilman M. E. Brooks stated that as Chairman of the Minority Business Committee we had a tentative date schedule for the 8th of February but we had to reset the date and until we can get everybody together, there really isn't anything to report on.

Central Communications Advisory Board:

Councilman D. K. Stallings stated that to his colleagues we did not meet for the month of February, but he would like to invite each and every one of you to our new public safety building. The walls are just going up and it is going to be upstairs and when and if you want a tour, Rich or he can arrange for it.

Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Airport Authority:

Councilman E. K. Rivers was absent.

Fireman's Relief Fund Board:

Councilman J. A. Stimatz stated that he had no report for tonight.

Joint Land Use Plan Committee:

Councilman J. A. Stimatz stated that he had no report for tonight.

Joint Redevelopment Committee:

Councilman J. B. Walton stated that he did not attend the meeting as he had an emergency to come up, but Councilwoman Baker can fill you in on what took place.

Councilwoman Baker stated that they met two weeks ago and they discussed the Fairgrounds property. The cleaning up of the property was the big topic. We looked at the possibility of that property being used for redevelopment. We had a good meeting. The Committee did authorize the cleaning that was discussed at the joint city and county meeting. There are adequate funds available for this use. There are still some legal issues with five parcels.

North Carolina Eastern Municipal Agency:

City Manager Olson report that this committee meets this coming Wednesday.

Solid Waste Committee:

Councilman Brooks advised that he did not have anything to report.

Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.:

Councilwoman Meggs stated that she gave her report during the report from Albemarle Development Committee.

Tourism Committee:

Councilman Rivers was absent but City Manager Olson will give a report.

Mr. Olson stated that we have already been notified that the City, along with the Airport Authority did receive a \$3.5 million economic development grant for the aviation research park. The Board of County Commissioners just tonight approved the rezoning of the property, the 66 acres across from the airport facility on a 5-2 vote. That allows us to go forward with the purchase of that property. Last Tuesday we had a kick off meeting with engineers that the City along with the County, has hired to do the environmental assessment storm water run off.

Water Committee:

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer stated that she believes that the County had their monthly water meeting, but she doesn't know if anyone from our Council attended.

Councilwoman J. M. Baker stated that she would like to report on the Community Service Committee of the League. Every other month they have a meeting in Raleigh. The Committee is comprised of representatives serving from a lot of communities in the state. We discussed the item that we would like for the lobbying group for the NCLM to lobby in favor for cities and not against. It was a several hours long meeting. This meeting was last Wednesday and we talked about what the governor's budget looks like this year. He will be pushing for revenue for water distribution. Also, something that this Council might find interesting is that we are looking at an overall land transfer tax. Right now there are only about eight or ten counties in the northeast part of the state that have land transfer tax. They are looking at the possibility of having a statewide one. This perhaps will change the way our land transfer tax is distributed. There was some discussion on anti-gang legislation and dilapidated buildings. One other thing was the hazard waste and they are putting in a task force to draft policies and regulations as a result of the fire in Apex. This committee would suggest regulations that would be mandated for cities and counties.

Councilman Walton asked to state that last Saturday, Congressman Butterfield visited this area. Ms. Wood, he is aware that this area is a stricken area. He is saying that he is trying to do all he can, but there is only so much you can do. Policies dictate everything. Take Wal-Mart, he said that some people up there hate Wal-Mart but it is going to help people in this area. Money will start gradually start coming into this area because of people like Congressman Butterfield. He also, introduced a bill to name the courthouse after Judge Herbert Small.

Mayor Foster said that he would also like to add pertaining to our Congressman who was here in Elizabeth City on Saturday. He made a very outstanding talk to us and he wants you to know that he is definitely fighting for this area and he wants us to make sure that we are together as a community. He was very impressed with our congressman and he will get a chance to be with him at our National Mayor's meeting in Washington. While he is in Washington he will also be meeting with our two Senators to let them know how our area is in need of federal financing in some areas. He will report back after he returns which will be in March.

6} DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Each Department Head came forward and briefly update the Council on the various activities within the respective departments.

7} ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Foster advised that the above item concluded the work session for tonight. He entertained a motion for adjournment.

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

Mayor Foster adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

Charles L. Foster
Mayor