

**City Council Special Meeting
March 21, 2014**

A Special Meeting of the City Council was called and duly advertised for Friday, March 21, 2014 at noon in Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Joe Peel
Councilwoman Jean Baker
Councilman Ray Donnelly
Councilman Tony Stimatz
Councilman Kem Spence
Councilman Darius Horton
Councilman Montravias King (*Arrived at 12:30 p.m.*)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer
Councilman Michael Brooks

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Rich Olson
City Clerk Vivian White
Assistant to the City Manager Angela Cole
Hertford Town Councilwoman Anne White
Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf
Graham Edwards, CEO of ElectriCities
David Barnes, General Counsel of ElectriCities

The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe Peel at 12:15 p.m. Mayor Peel welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Councilman Darius Horton to give the invocation, after which everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:

Mayor Peel called for approval of the agenda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Jean Baker, seconded by Councilman Darius Horton, to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion – Proposed sale of North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency Assets to Duke Energy Progress

Mayor Peel welcomed Graham Edwards, CEO of ElectriCities and David Barnes, General Counsel of ElectriCities to the meeting.

Mr. Edwards thanked Mayor Peel and members of Council for taking the time to meet with them. Mr. Edwards provided a general overview of the assets owned by the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) of which the City of Elizabeth City is a member. He offered a brief history of the nuclear power business since the 1970s. He stated that time and again he is told by member cities that the overall service provided by ElectriCities is excellent, but that the electric rates are too high. He stated that ElectriCities had been working with Duke Progress for a number of years to determine if a sale of NCEMPA assets would make sense, and by doing so provide rate relief to NCEMPA consumers.

In order to provide more detailed, confidential information regarding the proposed sale of NCEMPA assets to Duke Energy Progress, Mr. Edwards requested that the Council retire into Closed Session to discuss the negotiations.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Jean Baker, seconded by Councilman Darius Horton to go into Closed Session as authorized by NCGS §143-318.11(a)5 to discuss contract negotiations. The motion carried unanimously.

The record shall show that Councilwoman Anne White of Hertford and Town Manager Brandon Shoaf attended the Closed Session.

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Ray Donnelly to come out of Closed Session and return to Open Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Peel thanked Mr. Edwards and Mr. Barnes for providing the important briefing to the City Council. There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Vivian D. White, NCCMC
City Clerk