

MONDAY – 5:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

WORK SESSION

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 R. A. McLean presiding. City Council members in attendance were: J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, L. Hill-Lawrence, L. A. Hummer, R. E. King, B. S. Meggs, J. A. Stimatz and J. B. Walton. City staff attending was: City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce-Tamplen, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Deputy City Clerk V. D. White, Planning Director J. C. Brooks, Electric Director K. F. Clow, Parks and Recreation Director B. V. White, Fire Chief L. M. Mackey, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard and Public Utilities Director P. A. Fredette.

Mayor McLean established a quorum was present and opened the meeting. He called upon Councilwoman L. Hill-Lawrence for the invocation after which he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1} APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Mayor McLean called for the approval of the prepared agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to approve the agenda as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, R. E. King, B. S. Meggs, J. A. Stimatz and J. B. Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

2} READING OF THE ESSAYS CONTEST:

Mayor McLean stated that there nine winners in the recent Essay Contest. We have six of the winners present tonight and they are going to read their essays. Essays were read by Rebecca Humphries, Reginald Cole, Mattie Banks, Mattison Domke, Daniel Morningstar and Godgive Umozurike. Jasmine Batten and Divanti Rivera were unable to attend the meeting. Each winner will receive a \$100 savings bond and will have the opportunity to shadow an elected official. Each member of Council made remarks and offered congratulations.

3} ANNUAL REPORT – HEALTHY CAROLINIANS OF THE ALBEMARLE:

Mayor McLean called upon Amy Underhill for the report.

Ms. Underhill advised availability of physicians, physician extenders and nurses in Pasquotank County have been consistently higher than the state as a whole since 2001. Elizabeth City is where 86% of survey responders receive medical care. Recreational opportunities are increasing. The mortality rates for the top three leading causes of death in Pasquotank County (heart disease, cancer and cerebrovascular disease) have declined. Also, infant mortality rates are 9% lower than the statewide infant mortality rate. There are areas of concern which are: a need for community awareness, education and outreach regarding healthy eating, chronic disease prevention, physical activity, mental health and available community resources. Of those living in Pasquotank County 24.4% live in poverty. Pasquotank County has a higher percentage of children ages 5-11 and 12-18 who are overweight. Racial and gender disparities are among the top leading causes of death. She stated that their health priorities for the next four years are overweight and obesity and chronic disease management. The ultimate goal of the Community Health Assessment process is to share and utilize information, thereby influencing strategic planning across the community.

4} 2010 CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING PROCEDURES:

Mayor Mclean called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson advised that this week the City will be receiving our census information. In anticipation of this back in October he sent June Brooks and Amy Darden to the Institute of Government to a work shop concerning redistricting. Based on the information they brought back to us he believes it would be beneficial to Council to listen to June's presentation. It will give you some of the insights we need before we start the redistricting process.

Planning Director Brooks said she is going to discuss the generalities of what we may or may not need to accomplish in a very short period of time. Back in 2000 the census showed that we had approximately 17,000 in population. In her power point presentation Council could see how the Wards were broken down. They range from 3600, 4400, 5500 and 3700. Based on what she learned at the Institute of Government back in the fall we question how these Wards were approved by the Department of Justice but that was ten years ago and we are moving forward. Redistricting is examined every ten years after the census is taken. She briefly went over the areas that the City has annexed in the last ten years. Elizabeth City is classified as a multimember district. She explained the 10% rule. That is when you look at the number of seats that you have divided by the new population and you determine that equals an ideal population. You take the percentage difference of the ideal population of your most populous district and you add it to the difference of the ideal population in the least populous ward and if they add together to be 10 or more percent you have to redistrict. Redistricting is based on population and not on registered voters.

Because we are a Section 5 Jurisdiction we have to have the Department of Justice approval before we can make any changes in our voting Wards. They have sixty days to approve whatever we send to them. If we are to have elections in October we have to have our packet to the Department of Justice by May 19th. It doesn't give us a lot of time to come up with recommendations and get our packet together but that is the deadline. We have to be precleared by the Department of Justice three days before the filing of the candidates in July. Our latest date to be precleared by the DOJ is July 22nd. Filing dates for candidates to run in October is July 25th. Some of the keys things to look at is how much public participation did we have. We are not required to hold a public hearing but we must seek public participation whether we just hold an open meeting, whether we go out in the neighborhoods, etc. We need to adopt an ordinance or a resolution to send in with our proposal for the redistricting. All plans whether they are draft or the plan that we really want must be public record. They must be presented with our package. We have to have open meetings, we have to send in minutes, newspaper articles and anything that we have done to seek public participation or how we have notified the public that we are looking at changing the voting lines. We have to comply with Section 5 Voting Rights. We must have two majority minority Wards. To have a majority minority ward you could have 65% of your population of that Ward to be classified as a majority minority. It is the action of this body that we forward to the Department of Justice. Whether they approve it is a different story. If we do not get approval for the elections in October it will be May before we can hold elections.

Mr. Olson said one of the issues that concerns staff is over the last ten years we have experienced a great deal of growth. In a number of our minority wards we have had developments such as Summerville, Adams Landings and Hunter Ridge that the information that is available to staff is that the majority of those new developments do not have 65% of the individuals that are minorities, probably less than 50%. That does concern us a little concerning the majority minorities' ward. We also don't believe that we meet the 10% Rule. When we get the census data this week we may meet the 10% Rule or we won't. The big issue is the number of ECSU Students that claim that they are residents of Elizabeth City as of April 1st of last year. According to the census data it is where you reside as of April 1, 2010 is where your residency is. A lot of those college kids have been claimed under their parent's census information. We could have 2000 ECSU students who live within the Fourth Ward. We have no idea what that amount is but we will be able to determine that when we get the census data.

5} APPOINTMENTS TO REDISTRICTING ADVISORY BOARD:

Mayor McLean stated that he has appointed the following individuals that will serve on the Mayor's Redistricting Committee. He took one Council member and a private citizen to represent each Ward as well as a representative from the NAACP. This Committee will work with staff on the redistricting. They will get all of the information that we have on redistricting. There will be a lot of paper work for everyone to read through.

Councilwoman Betty Meggs
David Harris
Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer
Donald Lane
Councilman Michael Brooks
Aileen Whidbee
Councilman Johnnie Walton
Carlton O'Neal
Keith Rivers

6} COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a} Albemarle Economic Development Commission

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer stated we met last Wednesday and the guest speaker was a representative from the NC Coalition on Off Shore Wind Turbines. She is in the process of getting his PowerPoint presentation and once she gets it she will make sure each council member receives a copy. The Commission took action at that time just as we did with the Broadband Coalition, we voted to contribute \$500 to this coalition.

b} Central Communication Advisory Board

Councilman Walton stated we didn't have enough representation last time so they did not meet.

c} Airport Authority

Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence stated the renovations at the airport are going to begin in April with an expected completion date of August. We have changed the meeting date from the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. to 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate Scott Hinton who sometimes has to be away. Starting at the next meeting we will be meeting at Telephonics' Conference Room. It is going to be really nice once it is completed.

d} Fireman's Relief Fund Board

Councilman Stimatz stated he is still waiting for the minutes from the last meeting.

e} Joint Land Use Planning Committee

Councilman Stimatz stated we are still waiting on CAMA. That could be forever.

f} Storm Water Task Force

Councilman Stimatz stated we are moving ahead. We have had about four meetings to date. We have found out what a lot of the issues are in the City and we are defining those issues. The big thing what everybody in Elizabeth City needs to understand is 40% of the City is built in a swamp. When we start talking about drainage and problems with flooding understand that 40% of the City is built in a swamp. All of Sawyertown is in what used to be a swamp. That is the challenge we face but he thinks we are making good progress and looking forward to reporting out in a couple of months.

g} Joint Redevelopment Commission

Councilman Brooks stated the Commission has not met.

h} North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency

City Manager Olson stated we had our meeting last week. We did get a report on our different units. All the plants are being run at full capacity. We do anticipate an outage for 45 day refueling and maintenance at Brunswick starting March 3rd. Also, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution opposing certain provisions in House Bill 117. That particular item is on your agenda tonight.

i} Solid Waste Committee

Councilman King stated you are now able to drop off your computers, printers, etc. at the Old Farmers Market Building on Monday through Friday from nine to four. It is a good idea to take advantage.

j} Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Councilman King said we are getting together and doing some things. Ms. White can give us an update on Parks and Recreation.

Ms. White stated she will send the minutes to the City Clerk and she will distribute them to members of Council.

k} Tourism Development Commission

Councilwoman Baker stated they are pleased to present that the numbers are up in the last three or four months over last year. The numbers are looking better and better. More people are coming whether for tourism or business travel. They are using our hotels and creating tourism occupancy tax.

l} Water Committee

Councilwoman Baker stated the reverse osmosis program is progressing. We don't yet have a completion date but they are close. We have another meeting coming up on Wednesday.

m} ECDI

Councilwoman Meggs stated we are working real hard on the Potato Festival. She would like to report that we do have some really good sponsors that have been real generous with us. We are appreciative of that. We are planning on a clean up day for the City. The date has not been finalized yet. We are also going to be getting some more trash cans and benches for the City. The next meeting she will not be able to attend because she will be in New Bern for a Highway 17 meeting.

n} Chamber of Commerce

Councilwoman Meggs reported that we had a really good time at the Chamber celebration. The next thing that we are having is the Expo which is the 29th of March. She believes all the booths have been sold out. We are really happy about that.

o} Mayor's Youth Task Force

Councilman Walton reported that they did not meet on the last meeting date but we are scheduled to meet again on Wednesday. We did discuss the Eco Park a little. They are putting out the study on the Eco Park.

7} ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Work Session at this time, Mayor McLean entertained a motion for adjournment.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilman R. E. King to adjourn the meeting. Those voting in

favor of the motion were: Hummer, King, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Meggs, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Mayor McLean adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

Roger A. McLean
Mayor