

**MONDAY-5:30 P.M.**

**JUNE 22, 2009**

**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 S. S. Atkinson presiding. Those members attending were: J. M. Baker, L. A. Hummer, B. S. Meggs and J. A. Stimatz. E. K. Rivers arrives at 5:52 p.m. and V. C. Watts arriving at 6:35 p.m. Evans and King were absent. Staff members in attendance were: City Manager R. C. Olson, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Deputy City Clerk V. D. White, City Manager Intern R. A. Lyons, Inspections Director S. E. Ward, Fire Chief L. M. Mackey, Planning Director J. C. Brooks, Human Resource Director K. W. Felton, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, Electric Director K. F. Clow, Parks and Recreation Director J. D. Overman and Police Chief C. E. Crudup.

Mayor Atkinson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed those attending. He called upon Councilman J. A. Stimatz for the invocation after which the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was given.

**1} APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Mayor Atkinson called for action regarding the prepared agenda.

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs to approve the agenda as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Meggs, Baker and Hummer. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**2} PRESENTATION – ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION:**

Mayor Atkinson called upon Lena Lawrence for comments.

Ms. Lawrence thanked the Council for the tremendous support that has been bestowed upon the Community Relations Commission. She presented the yearly report from the Commission. She called upon Dr. Hezekiah Brown to come forth and give some follow-ups and continuations of what the Committee has planned for the future.

Dr. Brown briefly went over the "Building Bridges" conference and referenced some of the highlights of the conference.

Dr. Reed Adams also added his remarks on what he sees the conference accomplished. He expressed his appreciation to those that made the conference so successful.

### **3} DISCUSSION OF SIDEWALK EXTENSIONS:**

Mayor Atkinson called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson said back on January 26, 2009 work session Council wanted a report on three different sidewalk projects that were discussed at an earlier meeting. Those three sidewalks projects include Herrington Road from the intersection with McMorris and B Street to Roebuck Stadium which is approximately 3000 feet and the estimated costs is \$140,000; North Road Street from Knobbs Creek Drive to the emergency entrance into the hospital which is approximately 700 feet with an estimated cost of \$60,000. The final one is Route 17 South from Providence Road to the Applebee's entrance to Farm Fresh and Big Lots which is approximately 1800 feet with an estimated cost of \$85,000. All three of these projects are on State maintained roads. NCDOT does have funds budgeted to cost share with communities for such improvements. They have approximately \$100,000 budgeted but unfortunately because of the fiscal issues they do not have authorization to spend yet. He has talked with Sterling Baker and he is requesting that we send a letter prioritizing which street we would like to have considered for the sidewalk replacement program. He was very up front and honest that in all likelihood the project most likely would not be funded but he would like to have it in the queue for further funding if that does become available. All three of these projects are important but staff is recommending the Route 17 South project be submitted to NCDOT. The North Road Street project although important should be delayed until the Knobbs Creek Bridge is rebuilt in three years. There is a slight possibility that the sidewalk project could be incorporated into that project. The Herrington Road project would exceed the amount of money that NCDOT would have. The Route 17 South project falls within the amount of funding NCDOT has budgeted. The NCDOT program requires a 20% local match. Staff is asking Council for general direction on which one of these three projects that you want as our Number One priority. One option that we do have is that we could go ahead and do the project and obtain a reimbursable agreement with NCDOT for repayment. We would have to pay 100% next fiscal year and in all likelihood receive reimbursement the next fiscal year.

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to direct staff to submit the Route 17 South sidewalk project to NCDOT for action, to include authority to negotiate a reimbursable agreement with NCDOT. Those***

***voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Baker, Hummer, Meggs, Rivers and Watts. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**4} COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Atkinson called for the various committee reports.

a} Albemarle Economic Development Commission – Mayor Pro Tem Baker, Councilwoman Hummer and Councilwoman Meggs:

Mayor Pro Tem Baker said since she doesn't have much of a voice tonight that she would yield to other members.

Councilwoman Hummer said she wasn't able to attend that meeting.

Councilwoman Meggs we will be having another meeting on Wednesday.

b} Central Communication Advisory Board – Councilman King:

Due to Mr. King's absence there was no report.

c} Airport Authority - Councilman Stimatz:

Mr. Stimatz said we had the dedication of the Aviation Research Development Park earlier this month. We are having a ground breaking for Telephonics tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Things are going well in that area.

d} Fireman's Relief Fund Board – Councilwoman Watts.

Councilwoman Watts advised there had not been a meeting.

e} Joint Land Use Plan Committee – Councilman Stimatz:

Mr. Stimatz said the mountain seems to be moving a little bit on the Land Use Plan and there is some preliminary work on the conditional zoning process as well.

f} Joint Redevelopment Commission – Councilman King:

Due to Mr. King's absence there was no report.

g} North Carolina Eastern Municipal Agency – City Manager Olson:

Mr. Olson said our meeting is scheduled this Wednesday but unfortunately because of other commitments he will be unable to attend. You have received a copy of a press release that ElectriCities did send out on June 3<sup>rd</sup> where they have appointed a new Executive Director, Gran Edward. He has over 25 years of electrical experience. He looks forward to meeting him and working with him in the future.

h} Solid Waste Committee – Councilman Evans:

Due to Mr. Evan's absence there will be no report.

i} Tourism Development Authority – Councilman Rivers:

Mr. Rivers advised that two weeks from Thursday we will be passing the budget. We will be going over the information from Port Discover. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July funds has been signed off and the same company will be used again this year. We will have the Air Force Band performing.

j} ECDI – Councilwoman Meggs:

Ms. Meggs said they met on Thursday and we had a lot to discuss. First of all we rehashed the Potato Festival and we discuss what a wonderful success we felt that was. We figured the estimate of 15000 people attended the festival. We gave a \$500 scholarship to a local senior. Another thing that we talked about was the update on the pavilion. We talked about some of the needs for downtown and that is the parking places that we have. We have parking lots that are not inviting looking as they should be and we are asking that they be looked at. Then we also talked about signage to point people that come in to town where the parking areas are located.

k} Water Committee – Mayor Pro Tem Baker, Councilwoman Hummer and Councilwoman Watts):

Ms. Hummer said the County has in hand the Joint Water Agreement. The advertisement for bid for the R. O. Plant went out this week. The County had a pre-bid meeting ten days ago and they had 45 bidders or interested parties to attend that meeting. The bid opening is mid July.

**5} CLOSED SESSION:**

Mayor Atkinson entertained a motion to retire into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) discussion of acquisition of real property.

***A motion was made by Councilwoman L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs to retire into Closed Session for discussion of acquisition of real property as per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5). Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Meggs, Baker, Rivers, Stimatz and Watts. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**6} RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:**

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem J. M. Baker to return to Regular Session. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Baker, Hummer, Meggs, Rivers and Watts. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**7} ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Atkinson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC  
City Clerk

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Stephen S. Atkinson  
Mayor