

MONDAY-6:30 P.M.

JULY 30, 2012

JOINT CITY/COUNTY

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City and the Commissioners of Pasquotank County held a Joint City/County meeting on the above date and time at Montero's Restaurant located at 414 North McArthur Drive. Those attending were: Mayor J. W. Peel, Mayor Pro Tem J. B. Walton, J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, R. T. Donnelly, L. A. Hummer, K. K. Spence, J. A. Stimatz, City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce-Tamplen, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Planning Technician A. Cole, Public Utilities Director P. A. Fredette, Interim Police Chief J. A. Manley, Parks and Recreation Director B. V. White, Commissioners: Griffin, Trueblood, Dixon, Sterritt, White, Perry and Winslow, Water Superintendent J. Gregory, Sanitation Superintendent M. Etheridge and Deputy Clerk L. Scott.

Mayor Peel established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p. m. He called for a moment of silent reflection after which he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1} STATEMENT BY MAYOR PEEL:

Mayor Peel welcomed those attending. He thanked Montero's for the delicious meal that was served before the meeting.

2} STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN L. E. GRIFFIN:

Chairman Griffin welcomed those members of the Commissioners and staff that were present. We have a full agenda with a lot of different things.

3} UPDATE ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Mayor Peel called upon Mark Eatman who is representing NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch.

Mr. Eatman advised that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is a long-term, non-fiscally constrained transportation plan that will assist local government and its representatives in making transportation decisions in the next 25-30 years. A CTP is also multimodal which aims to address existing and anticipated transportation problems. Among the several highway recommendations, the Committee worked with the Camden County CTP Steering Committee to discuss the reclassification of US Highway 158 to an expressway and draft future route recommendations between Camden and Pasquotank Counties. The two groups initially drafted six alternatives for consideration. The final recommendations were based upon potential impacts on tourism, emergency/disaster evacuation,

regional traffic patterns, and construction cost projects. Alternative I is the Pasquotank-Elizabeth City section of US Highway 158 and is projected to cross the river and merge with US Highway 17 North just north of the hospital and south of Horseshoe Road, provided moderate impact on existing and planned development and is the most direct east-west evacuation route. Camden County was not completely accepting of this proposed plan and has since modified their draft CTP plan to reflect their residents' preferred option. We have also discussed other alternatives that include other thoroughfares within the County including Main Street Extension-US 17 Highway By-pass connector; a Trinkaloe-Selby-Perkins thoroughfare facilitating connection from US Highway 17 South through the Pitts Chapel Road at/near Weeksville Road; and special attention to the Oak Stump Road/US Highway 17/W. Ehringhaus Street intersection. Once everything is in order we will be taking it to the public for their comments and will be coming back before each of you for adoption.

Councilman Stimatz expressed his concern regarding the fact that at least four and a half years ago then Mayor McLean went to a DOT meeting about Knobbs Creek and indicated that we would like to make sure we had five feet above water for clearance at Knobbs Creek. We are not getting it and that is a serious problem. Now that we are not getting it and you have already bided it out it basically that puts a real crimp in us ever doing any kind of tourism up Knobbs Creek.

Mr. Olson stated the project would be awarded at the DOT meeting in August.

It was consensus of the Council that we go on record to jointly contact someone of our concerns regarding the height of the bridge over Knobbs Creek.

4} UPDATE ON RFP PROCESS FOR DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF ALBEMARLE HOSPITAL:

Mayor Peel called upon Commissioner Griffin for comments.

Commissioner Griffin advised that over 80% of hospitals in NC are now partnered with another health system in some way. There is a growing trend of chronic conditions in Pasquotank County, including heart disease, diabetes, obesity and cancer. The demand for primary care services exceeds the supply of physicians available, causing residents to leave the area for basic health service. The current state of our hospital is one third of all US Hospitals have negative operating margin, spending more money to provide patients with quality care than they collect in reimbursement for that care. In addition to providing necessary medical services close to home, it is critical to ensure ongoing job security and growth opportunities. Albemarle Hospital currently provides approximately \$25 million in charity care annually. The reason for the RFP

process is despite these economic challenges; Albemarle Hospital remains a strong, high quality healthcare facility. To successfully navigate the changes brought on the health care reform and provide the best possible care to the people we serve, the Commissioners and Hospital Authority have embarked on a non-bidding request for proposal process to solicit options for affiliation of partnership with other health systems. He briefly went over the Authority's time line as well as the declining inpatient rates and the increase in outpatient rates.

5} AMENDMENT TO DOG ORDINANCE AND RELATED PROCEDURES:

Mayor Peel called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson informed the group that on March 26, 2012 City Council approved a new section of the City Code to address dangerous dogs. We had our first Animal Control Board meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting Sheriff Cartwright make a statement that there were several changes that he believes needs to be done to the City ordinance to address a number of deficiencies that he has noted in the ordinance. In the definition section, the Sheriff's Department has been added to provide for the relationship with the Police Department. Sheriff Cartwright has requested that specific wording be added through the ordinance recognizing his agency's authority, which has been done. Under Section 7-52, "Reporting Requirements," a subsection 2(a) has been added, which would address dangerous dogs in the City, the County or another jurisdiction from being moved to avoid being deemed a potentially dangerous, dangerous or vicious dog. The City had had one animal moved to the County, while the County as had several dogs, which have been deemed by another Animal Control Board as dangerous moved into the County to avoid another jurisdiction's order. These proposed changes are the only major changes to either the City's or the County's ordinances. Also, additional time has been given to residents to file an appeal if the dog has been taken into custody by the Sheriff's Department. Finally a permit fee and inspection fee has been incorporated into the ordinance. Since the Sheriff's Department will be the entity responsible for the inspection, they would keep all inspection fees.

Mayor Peel stated that we would put this issue on the next agenda for further clarification.

6} AMENDMENT TO PARKS AND RECREATION INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:

Mayor Peel called upon City Manager for comments.

Mr. Olson stated one of the issues that has popped up is when we prepare our budgets for recreation services. During the 2012-2013 budget process the

County took issue with the amount the City Council appropriated for the department. Under the Interlocal Agreement, the City Manager shall prepare a budget and provide the County Manager with a copy of the budget by April 1 of each year. In an effort to receive feedback from the County City staff met with County representatives prior to the Manager's recommended budget being submitted to the City Council. In order to allow the budget process to move forward smoothly, language was added to the Central Communications agreement and the Emergency Management agreement that requires both governing bodies to take official action by June 1 of each year. Similar wording is proposed for the Parks and Recreation Agreement.

The Council Commissioners approved a motion approving the Second Amendment to the Parks and Recreation Interlocal Agreement.

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to authorize the Mayor to execute the Second Amendment to the Parks and Recreation Interlocal Agreement. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Donnelly, Hummer, Spence and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

7} UPDATE ON STATUS OF RO WATER:

Mayor Peel called upon John Gregory for an update on the RO Water.

Mr. Gregory stated the RO plant was up and running as of May 1st of this year. We are continuing to iron out some bugs now and then. We are producing approximately 900,000 gallons of water a day and working about 10-hours a day. Also, looking up the road a little further we will have inter-connections that will be on Forrest Park Road and one on Weeksville Road near the Coast Guard Housing. Those should begin in about two weeks. All of the materials are slated to be here by the end of next week and we are hoping by the end of August we will be inter-connected and will be able to push water back and fourth between us.

8} UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE (LANDFILL/TRANSFER STATION):

Mayor Peel called upon Mike Etheridge for comments.

Mr. Etheridge stated at our landfill we have a LCID Storage facility at our landfill for all the material taken to the landfill is ground into mulch. We bid out our CND and LCID contracts and they came in a little bit cheaper. Currently all three contracts are contracted out. It saves us about \$75,000 a year. We are hoping that we will be able to keep our tipping fees where they are currently. We

received a grant this year to put in a building. Recyclables were discussed briefly.

9} COMMENTS:

Councilman Donnelly stated he had no further comments to make.

Councilman Walton suggested that the Commissioners consider attending the BEMO conference that will be held at K. E. White this weekend.

Councilman Spence asked to commend Mr. Etheridge on the way he explained his presentation tonight. With all the negatives that we see in the paper, he feels you are doing a good job. A lot of people don't know what is really going on until it is explained in detail to them. Unfortunately, people in the City will believe negative statements before positive statements. When you save the County money you are also saving the City money too.

Councilwoman Hummer stated she had no further comments.

Councilwoman Baker stated she wanted to remind everyone of the Coast Guard activities that are being planned this week in Elizabeth City.

Councilman Stimatz said he wanted to thank everyone for the presentations tonight. They were very informative. He also would like to for you to support your local Coast Guard people.

Councilman Brooks stated he had no further comments.

City Manager Olson stated he had no further comments.

Mayor Peel thanked the County Commissioners for their attendance tonight and for Chairman Griffin's assistance in placing some of these items on the agenda.

10} ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor