

MONDAY-7:00 P.M.

AUGUST 13, 2007

CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City held its first meeting of the month on the above date and time in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building with Mayor C. L. Foster presiding. City Council Members attending were: J. M. Baker, M. E. Books, L. A. Hummer, B. S. Meggs, E. K. Rivers, D. K. Stallings, J. A. Stimatz, J. B. Walton, City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, Deputy City Clerk V. D. White, Public Utilities Director P. A. Fredette, Parks and Recreation Director J. D. Overman, Inspection Director S. E. Ward, Fire Chief W. C. Pritchard, Planning Director J. C. Brooks, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, Police Chief C. E. Crudup, Human Resource Director K. W. Felton and Electric Superintendent K. F. Clow.

Mayor Foster opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. He gave the invocation after which Councilman M. E. Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1} AGENDA APPROVAL:

Mayor Foster called for approval of the prepared agenda.

Councilwoman B. S. Meggs asked to remove ***Item 7-a-Consideration-Revision of Rules for Public Participation from the Consent Agenda and to place it on the Regular Agenda for discussion.***

Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer asked to add, ***Award of Bid for the Surveillance Cameras.***

Councilman M. E. Brooks asked to add, ***Roanoke Avenue.***

Hearing no further additions or deletions Mayor Foster called for a motion of approval.

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

2} APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

a} Mayor Foster called for approval of the June 25, 2007 Regular Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilman D. K. Stallings to approve the minutes of June 25, 2007 Regular Meeting as written. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Stallings, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

b} Mayor Foster called for approval of the July 9, 2007 Regular Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to approve the minutes of July 9, 2007 as written. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

c} Mayor Foster called for approval of the July 30, 2007 Joint City/County Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman E. K. Rivers to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2007 Joint City/County meeting as written. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Rivers, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings and Walton. Motion carried.

3} COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Foster advised that it was time on the agenda when the floor is open for public comment for anyone wishing to make comments, suggestions or just to share something with the Council. He asked that the time be limited to three minutes unless one other individual gave you their three minutes but not to exceed six minutes. He asked Deputy Clerk White to call the names of those wishing to address Council.

Ms. White called Mr. Darrell McKinley of 1216 Providence Road to the podium.

Mr. McKinley spoke regarding his concern over flooding in Oxford Heights.

Mr. James Stone of 1012 Kris Drive spoke regarding his desire to not have the switch installed in his home that will help save energy.

Ms. Ramona Gilbert of 1623 Penny Drive spoke regarding the sewerage smell on Hoggard and Parkview, 1600 Crescent Drive, the \$5.00 fee on the tax bills, the pump station in Spaulding Park and the need for a stop light at Edgewood and Halstead.

Mr. Thomas Deatherage, 1714 Darian Drive spoke regarding flooding in Northeastern Terrace and he also was concerned about placing the meters in homes without the permission of the homeowner.

Ms. Susan Matousell, 403 Princess Ann Road spoke regarding her opinion of the manager and other local officials.

Ms. Frances Long, 1701 Providence Road spoke regarding the flooding in Oxford Heights.

4} CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Foster called upon City Manager R. C. Olson to read the prepared Consent Agenda. Following the reading, Mayor Foster called for approval from Council.

A motion was made by Councilwoman J. M. Baker, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to approve the following Consent Agenda. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Stimatz, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Rivers, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

a} Approved calling for a public hearing to be held on Monday, August 27, 2007 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building for each of the following:

- 1} To report to the citizens the closing of Year Four of the Hugh Cale Grant.
- 2} Consideration of Application RZ-02-07 by Saint Stephens Baptist Church to rezone .32 acre located on the south side of Cypress Street and the north side of York Street between Harney Street to the east and Parsonage Street to the west.

b} Approved the following budget amendment:

**BUDGET AMENDMENT
NUMBER 07-06
AUGUST 13, 2007**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008:

SECTION I. That the General Fund Miscellaneous Revenue (103350.0000) and Police Department Departmental Supplies (105100.3300) be increased by \$1,700.

(To record calendar revenue.)

ADOPTED, this 13th day of August 2007

Charles L. Foster
Mayor

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

- c} Approved the execution of Interlocal Agreement with the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Airport Authority.
- d} Approved declaring 805 South Martin Luther King Street as surplus and authorized the sale of same.
- e} Award of Engineering Services Agreement for the Aviation Research and Development Commerce Park to Hyman and Robey

End of Consent Agenda:

5} PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a} Mayor Foster called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson advised that this public hearing is being held to notify the citizens that the City plans to send a letter of interest to the State regarding an infrastructure grant in the amount of \$750,000. This public hearing will be the first of two that is required for this grant application. In grants of this type, water is the first priority and sewer is the second. Council will also need to make a motion to call for the second public hearing to be held on August 27, 2007. If approved this grant would benefit the City greatly in their infrastructure needs.

Mayor Foster declared the meeting into public hearing to notify the citizens of the City's intent to apply for these funds from the State. Since no one signed up to speak for or against the proposed grant, Mayor Foster declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to approve the sending of a letter of interest regarding the \$750,000 Grant for infrastructure improvements. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Foster entertained a motion to call for a public hearing to be held on August 27, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to call for a public hearing to be held on Monday, August 27, 2007 in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building for notifying the citizens of the City's intent to apply for funds from the State in the amount of \$750,000 to be used for infrastructure improvements. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

b} Mayor Foster called upon Chief C. E. Crudup for comments.

Chief Crudup advised that currently the City's police department has 23 tasers in its inventory and purchase of additional 14 tasers will provide tasers for over 60% of the sworn staff. The tasers are a non-lethal means of force that the department has incorporated into its use of force continuum that reduces injuries for both officers and suspects. The Elizabeth City Police Department and the Pasquotank Sheriff's Department have agreed to share the 2007 JAG grant in a sixty-forty split. The City will be receiving \$11,125.00 and the Sheriff's Department will receive \$7,416.80.

Councilman Stallings asked the number of times that the tasers had been used.

Chief Crudup replied that within the last two years they had been used 41 times with 27 black males, 5 white males, 4 black females and 5 white females.

Mayor Foster declared the meeting into public hearing to receive public comments. Since there was no one present who wished to speak for or against the proposed grant, Mayor Foster declared the public hearing closed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to approve the submission of the FY2007 Justice Assistance Grant. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Meggs, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Rivers, Stimatz and Walton. Against: Stallings. Motion carried.

6} REGULAR AGENDA:

a} Mayor Foster called upon City Manager R. C. Olson for comments on the Rules for Public Participation at Council meetings.

Mr. Olson stated that on July 9, 2007 Council approved "Rules for Public Participation at a Council Meeting." This set of rules allowed for the removal of any individual who willfully disrupts, disturbs or interrupts a council meeting and continues to do so after being ordered to leave. This rule, however, did not assign a person with the responsibility of removing an individual in such a case. Research shows that most cities appoint a Sergeant at Arms to preside at all meetings. This person is usually a local law enforcement officer, in most cases, the Chief of Police. This appointed officer has the responsibility of removing a public participant who is disturbing, disrupting or interrupting a council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer to approve the following wording in the Rules for Public Participation; "The City's Chief of Police and/or his designee shall serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms for all Council meetings. When directed by the presiding officer, the Sergeant-at-Arms will have the responsibility of removing a public participant who the presiding officer determines to be disturbing or interrupting a Council meeting" Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Hummer, Baker, Brooks, Meggs, Stallings, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

b} Appointments to various committees.

1} Historic Preservation Commission:

Mayor Foster advised that he is offering the name of Mr. James A. Calliotte as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Calliotte comes to Elizabeth City as a retired Assistant Dean of Old Dominion University. He resides at 400 West Main Street and along with his wife is restoring their Charles Harney home. He brings experience and knowledge with him and he feels that he would be an asset to our Historic Preservation Commission.

A motion was made by Councilwoman J. M. Baker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer to confirm the appointment of Mr. James A. Calliotte as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission with a three-year term. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Hummer, Brooks, Meggs, Rivers, Stallings, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

2} Tourism Development Commission:

Mayor Foster stated that he didn't have to say very much about the next reappointment as everyone already knows him. He is asking for a motion to reappoint Councilman E. K. Rivers as a member of the Tourism Development Commission for another 2-year term.

A motion was made by Councilman D. K. Stallings, seconded by Councilman J. B. Walton to reappoint E. Kirk Rivers to another term on the Tourism Development Commission. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stallings, Walton, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Rivers and Stimatz. Against: None. Motion carried.

c} Amendment to City Benefits Policy:

Mayor Foster called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson advised that the existing policy regarding benefits requires a new employee to successfully complete a six month probationary period prior to being placed on the City's health insurance program, retirement benefits and enrollment in the 401K program. He asked the Human Resource Director to compare our benefits package with other cities and counties to determine if this was an impediment in the hiring of police officers and other city employees. This was done and it showed that the majority of the sites offered Health Insurance in 31-days and the 401 K and Retirement benefits on the date of hire. The additional cost to modify the policy is minimal since all budgeted positions include full benefit packages at the time the budget was approved. The change in the policy would benefit all new employees not just police officers.

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to approve the amendment to the Personnel Policy to allow all new City employees to be eligible for health insurance on the 31st date of employment and to receive retirement and 401K benefits on the date of hire. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

d} Installation of in-street pedestrian crossing signs:

Mayor Foster called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson replied that Councilman Stimatz requested that staff place a discussion on the agenda regarding the purchase of crosswalk signs which would be placed in the middle of the street. These devices are similar to the ones that are found on the Coast Guard Base. The cost of these signs is approximately \$223.00 each. The cost of the crosswalk signs is well within the purchase authority of city staff. The issue is being

brought to the City Council to provide policy direction to staff. Staff considers this an extension of our traffic calming policy, but would like concurrence from the council on installation of such a traffic control device. Staff would propose to install these signs in the crosswalk in front of the old library and at the corner of Elliott Street and Colonial Avenue. In addition, we have asked permission from NCDOT to install one at the crosswalk at Fearing and Water Street but have not received permission yet. Public Works would permanently mount the device to the street by using an epoxy adhesive. If a vehicle were to strike the sign, it would fall but pop back up.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer asked for the possibility of placing speed control signs on the speed limits signs already installed on roadsides.

Councilman Walton stated that he was recently in Atlanta and saw how these signs were used there. He also saw the type of speed bumps that Atlanta uses. It is just cement and he knows that they are less than \$6000 a piece.

Following discussion regarding additional areas that perhaps these signs might be placed in the future,

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs to authorize City staff to install in-street pedestrian crossing signs at the two designated sites. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Meggs, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Stallings, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

e} Preliminary Subdivision – Savin Road:

Mayor Foster called upon Planning Director J. C. Brooks for comments.

Ms. Brooks stated that this project is 19.52 acres located on the north side of Savin Road. The existing zoning is residential R-10. The owners are seeking a Preliminary Plat approval for forty-five single family lots through the major subdivision process. This development will have a gross density of 2.25 units per acre. The subdivision will have two points of entry, one from Savin Road and another from Savin Woods Court via a dedicated 50' easement. The subdivision will not connect to any other adjacent properties or subdivision. A Sketch Plan for 46 residential lots for this development was presented and conditionally approved by TRC. Open space is required under the major subdivision process. The UDO requires that .3 acres of open space be dedicated. The open space that is designated on the Preliminary Plat is a detention pond and the adjacent wetland. None of the indicated space is considered a viable area for recreational use; therefore, the applicant is requesting that a fee be paid to the City in lieu of dedicating open space. The public schools were notified regarding this development. They did not offer any additional comments regarding this particular application. There are 5 conditions and the applicant has not indicated contrary to

complying with any of those. The Planning Commission is recommending approval of this preliminary plat.

Councilman Rivers asked if the model that was put forth at our joint meeting was ready to be used. We need to be sure that these calculations are done before we approve anything that would put water on Oxford Heights. He feels that it would be prudent to wait for that model to come out and get the results before moving forward. We need the proper data in front of us. Every engineer has told us that their subdivision is not going to flood and then it does or it puts the water on another subdivision. He just asks that we postpone this for 90-days.

Mr. Sean Robey of Hyman and Robey came forward and pointed out on the aerial the location of Savin Woods. The property line basically runs the center of the swamp. NCDOT has required them to widen Savin Road to 20 feet. Sean was asked questions regarding the flow of water and drainage issues. He explained his calculations for this subdivision. The model has not been share with him yet.

Councilman Stimatz asked does the County's run off model predict the same predevelopment run off that you do.

Mr. Robey replied that we use the same generally accepted rule that they would be using for the model. He will come up with the same numbers. They are all soil conservation models.

Councilman Walton asked if the TRC and Planning Commission have seen the information that was shown to Council. Upon a reply of no he continued by saying that is part of the problem. Council are the ones that are put on television. If we say nay or yea everybody blames us. There are more people involved than just us. Everybody should be educated on what we have been given. Then they can make decisions before it come to us and then we have to make the drastic decisions that will be magnified if it doesn't work right. We need accountability. If Greg Johnson says that it will work he is the one that we will expect it to work for. If Greg Johnson and Mr. Robey communicate with one another and it doesn't work we know who the accountability would go toward. But, don't make us accountable if we don't know information. He doesn't know what you are talking about when you talk about the grass because that is not his field, but he does need information. He thinks that the Technical Review Board needs that information. The Planning Commission needs that information before it gets to us so they can nip it in the bud before there is a problem. It shouldn't come to us to solve a problem of that magnitude.

A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilman M. E. Brooks to send this information through the model with the information brought back to Council to be added as additional information before we pass this subdivision. Those voting in favor of

the motion were Rivers, Brooks, Baker, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

f} Surveillance Cameras:

Mayor Foster called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson stated that three bids were received for the purchase of surveillance cameras. The following is the Bid Tabulation Sheet

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Tri-Tronics # 1 | \$ 97652.50 | (\$93,363.50 without taxes) |
| Tri-Tronics # 2 | \$104,322.24 | |
| ADT | \$ 99,959.00 | |

Chief Crudup came up and stated that staff is recommending that we go with Bid #1. The camera surveillance system proposed in Bid #1 includes six Panasonic WVCS954 cameras that are vandal resistant, waterproof, weather proof and outdoor day and night. The system includes 2 IBM workstations that will be placed in the police department. The system will record up to thirty days of images. The system will include 64 inputs to add, connect up to sixty-four cameras for future use. The cost of the cameras does not include the necessary equipment for us to monitor the cameras from mobile data terminals in officers' vehicles. To put the system in the vehicles we would be able to do 22 cars at about \$300 per car which will cost an additional \$6,637.

Councilman Walton stated that this has been a long process but he remembers Jean saying what is going to be the procedure. Darryl even asked for people to bring back the procedures and it was never done clearly. He is not going to say that he knows all of it because he doesn't and most of us up don't know it all either, but you can give a wise guess. Chief give us your spin on what we have and what we may purchase and where we go from here because you are the one that is going to basically make it work. If you feel like it will help you then we will make it work.

Chief Crudup stated that cameras are a basic tool. It is another tool added to what we already have if we can get it to work and do what it needs to do. It can be a plus to the police department as we can start watching areas without being in the area.

Mr. Walton asked the Chief if he needed more money or what. He asked for a proposal that would clarify it for us.

Mr. Olson said that we told you at budget time that we would put six cameras in the budget. That is exactly what you see in this bid documentations. We told you the type of camera that we would be putting in there. What we put in the budget is kind of the top of the line type cameras. We can go in with other types of cameras at a considerable less cost. They will be live but taped to a tape deck. The amount of

money that we have budgeted is for six cameras and after the removal of the taxes we would have enough money to buy 22 air cards.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer asked how long these cameras would remain in Sawyertown.

Chief Crudup said that we have done a model policy for the cameras and in our policy we have said that they would remain in one spot for a period of ninety days and after that we would assess that and see if they need to remain there and if not we would move them to another location.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to go with the recommendation of Tri-Tronics in the amount of \$97,652.50 for six surveillance cameras and the cards for 22 cruisers and in the mean time look for another company for a better price on the cameras. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Meggs, Rivers and Walton. Against: Stallings. Motion carried.

g} Roanoke Avenue:

Mayor Foster called upon Councilman Brooks for comments.

Mr. Brooks commented on the high grass that is growing along side of Roanoke Avenue. Children have to walk through this grass and he sees it as an accident waiting to happen. He realizes that the State is responsible for the grass cutting in this area but he feels that we should cut this grass now and contact NCDOT about future cutting.

Mr. Olson stated that he would get the grass cut and will add this area to NCDOT list that they are responsible for cutting.

7} COMMENTS AND INQUIRES ON NON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor Foster said that he would go around the table and call on the Manager and each member of council for comments.

City Manager Olson stated that he had no further comments.

Councilman Stimatz stated that it is hard for us to come up with monies when our nation is at war. We have money but it is a question of where you want to spend it and what you want to spend it on. It is a matter of priorities of what is important. Stormwater drainage issues. Once again he will bring it up as he is still waiting to know who is responsible for the drainage ditches on various properties. When it is not ours or the State, then whose is it? He raised this issue about Big Lots back in April and he went by there on Sunday and the trash that was in there four months ago is still in

there.

The light that was placed at Industrial and the strip mall made that one way out to Industrial. You cannot go out to Industrial from that parking lot. They have put a one way sign out there. That means you have to go down Halstead and you can't go to the light to get back on Halstead. He thinks that is an illegal sign.

He would like to clear up that when we voted to adopt the traffic calming policy that motion was voted down. Therefore, we have not voted for the traffic calming policy yet. We need to bring that up again.

Has the Institute of Government review our political sign ordinance yet? A constituent has raised the issue that it is content restricted because it only allows political candidate signs and therefore may be unconstitutional. Here we are next month on election time. What we are going to do?

Councilman Walton stated that he attended the meeting in Asheville this week and they are talking about options on how to manage and save money. He went to an alternative energy session and they said in the future and right now some cities are using the wind and solar energy. We are way behind in a lot of instances but how can we try to go forward with things. What we have to do is to educate the public on what we are trying to do because the more of them that know what we are trying to do it makes it a little easier for us. He can't see why a person would not want a meter in their home to save money, but you have got to be flexible because there are some out there. A couple came to the podium tonight. It is a hard rock that we are trying to satisfy. All we can do is get good information so that we can make logical decisions and do the best that we can. We know and we took some step by step improvements on trying to evacuate people from Oxford Heights if there is a big rain. We even have a key to the back gate now. We are taking smaller steps. He doesn't want to take hope away from them but if they hear that it is going to be a big rain they need to go visit a neighbor or somebody in another community. That is all that we can do right now, but we did pass a storm water fund and right now there is Roanoke, Spaulding Park, Oak Grove and then somewhere down the line it should be Oxford Heights included in there somewhere. That is what we have to do. We have to make a comprehensive long range plan that will take care of some of these problems. We can't take care of all the problems right now. If we are going to develop an area the developers will do that infrastructure and all those other things. We don't have to worry about that. We need a comprehensive plan developed between ourselves and the county that will assure or at least give Oxford Heights hope that within the next two years that the problem won't be a problem anymore.

Councilwoman Meggs said that she also attended the energy meeting. She learned a lot more this time because she knew more about what they were talking about. One thing that she does want to say to those about the cycle and save is it is not that we

are trying to take your rights away but it is just that we are trying to get you to realize that we need to start conserving energy. We need everybody to get on the bandwagon and start trying to conserve. It is something that we really need to think about.

Councilman Stallings said that he went to the ElectriCities meeting in Asheville and there was a lot of information to bring back to the City. Johnny and Betty are right on target about the cycle and save. He would like to put it back on the agenda and maybe have a public hearing and see if the same ones will come back out and voice their opinion and maybe we could do a waiver as we have some that has just built new houses that may not want the switch. He knows when his Mother and Father were living they had the switch and some kind of way they used more energy than they were supposed too and it cut off. He would like for us to consider bringing that back up for at least discussion at our next Council meeting.

He would also like to ask that he and his wife be registered for the upcoming League Meeting in October so that he would not be left out like he was for the ElectriCities meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer stated that at the site of the bridge collapsed in Minnesota there was a government official and he said that we are the wealthiest nation in the world and there are billions of dollars out there for infrastructure needs. Why can't we find some of it? She would like a figure on what it would take to replace our sewer system.

She has had several handicapped individuals point out a problem to her and that is accessing the new library. Those that drive can park there but there are some who make their way around town in a wheelchair. There are no handicap cuts in the sidewalks on Road Street, Elizabeth Street or at Colonial Avenue. Both of those intersections and especially Road and Elizabeth are very dangerous. We need some curve cuts and she thinks that we need to ask the County to go in with us on that.

She would like to know how Council feels about the signs that she suggested earlier.

The Governor's Crime Control grant comes out in September and she hopes that we will be ready to go for that. If there is some way if you could find out if cameras could be purchased with that money.

She hopes that this individual is watching television tonight because she is quite upset about an issue. His name is Mr. Phillip Dunn and he is with B&H Properties out of Santa Monica California. She has never been to California but she has heard that people move there because of the beautiful trees. Well, this is the South and we are known for our Crepe Myrtles. When she was driving home from church yesterday and saw all of those Crepe Myrtles laying on the ground at Port Elizabeth it just blew her away. Councilwoman Meggs and she have a subcommittee of Economic Development

Commission that is called Community Image and we were trying to improve on the way the entrances into our town looked. In that particular area with that semi circle of white Crepe Myrtles trees was really beautiful and it is just as you come in from the South so we were trying to get some landscaping done on the North but now they are just lying on the ground. Maybe he will go back to California and enjoy his Palm Trees.

Councilman Brooks thanked Chief Crudup for the marvelous job he is doing since he has been here. He has noticed the presence of more police officers in the neighborhoods.

Again, with Roanoke he hopes that it doesn't take two or three days to just cut the grass.

We are doing all that we can for Oxford Heights. We pushed the evacuation plan and that is good to have in case we have high water over the bridge. We are doing all that we can. Stuff seems slow but we are making progress toward that.

To the residents of Summerville we haven't given up on you. Don't give up on yourself either. We have drainage issues throughout the city so we haven't forgotten you. It just takes time to put things in place to help you with the situation.

Councilwoman Baker said for the next meeting could we get our rental department to give us an update at our next meeting. She has gotten a few calls from those that have had their homes inspected and they found items that need to be fixed but they never get fixed and there doesn't seem to be a process to follow up to make sure that these things were indeed fixed. Is there a follow-up process?

She knows that there is one group of landlords that have 300 properties that they are putting on the market because they just don't have the money to comply.

She has a question about if we are violating citizens' rights by forcing people to put the cycle and save switches in.

Mr. Olson replied that it is staff's opinion that we are not violating their rights. As the provider of the electricity we can require them to put in what we believe are appropriate types of control to our system.

Councilman Rivers asked that we place it on Channel 11 when Council passes something. We need to educate people about anything we pass and that way they would have the same information that we have.

He also wanted to thank Rich, ECSU and the City of Elizabeth City for the traffic study that was recently done. We also need to commend the Police Department on the recent National Night Out.

Mayor Foster stated that he would like to take a few moments to say thank you to all those that worked so hard and diligently on the recent Prayer Walk. It was very well attended even with the high temperatures that we have been having. We all know that there is power in prayer as it can change things and change people. It was massive and very effective. This was the second one that we have had and if one individual was touched by the prayers and the unity shown and that in itself is a blessing. Plans are already in the works for the next prayer walk.

8} CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Foster said that the Council will need to retire into Closed Session for consideration of acquisition of property as per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5).

A motion was made by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs, seconded by Councilman D. K. Stallings to retire into Closed Session for consideration of land acquisition as per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5). Those voting in favor of the motion were: Meggs, Stallings, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Rivers, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Upon the end of Closed Session.

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman E. K. Rivers to return to regular session. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Rivers, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

9} ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Foster entertained a motion for adjournment.

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

Mayor Foster adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

Charles L. Foster
Mayor