

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

**AUGUST 23, 2010**

**WORK SESSION**

The Elizabeth City Council held its regular work session on the above date and time in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building with Mayor R. A. McLean presiding and Council Members: 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 were in attendance. City staff attending were: City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce-Tamplen, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Planning Director J. C. Brooks, Human Resource Director K. W. Felton, Police Chief C. E. Crudup, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, Parks and Recreation Director B. V. White, Electrical Director K. F. Clow and Public Utilities Director P. A. Fredette.

Mayor McLean established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He welcomed those attending as well as the viewing audience. He called upon Pastor Reggie Ponder for the invocation after which the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was cited.

**1} APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Mayor McLean called for the approval of the 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, King, Meggs, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**2} PRESENTATION – US CENSUS BUREAU:**

Mayor McLean called upon Akilah Ensley, Partnership and Data Service Coordinator with the US Census Bureau for an update on the census.

Ms. Ensley went through the proof of performance for Elizabeth City. She briefly touched on all the procedures that they have to follow in order to obtain an accurate census. She touched on the comparisons from 2000 and the surrounding counties. She assured Council that the final figures will be given to them in 2011.

**3} PARKS RENOVATIONS AND UPGRADES:**

Mayor McLean called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson stated that Items # 3 & 4 are related. During the last City Council meeting the Council had requested because of numerous requests of City Council for us to come back with priorities for improving and upgrading our Parks and Recreation facilities.

Parks and Recreation Director B. V. White stated at the April 2010 meeting the Parks and Recreation Department staff prepared a summary of park needs and upgrades throughout the City park system. At that time each park was evaluated by staff for ADA compliance, safety, aesthetics and usage. The total cost of these renovations and upgrades came to approximately \$1,450,200. Since March, staff has been able to work on a few small projects in several of the parks such as removal of the old, antiquated playground equipment, and removal of the old, dead trees at Elizabeth Street (Triangle Park) Park and replace them with Oak and Cherry trees. We have replaced fencing along the Knobbs Creek Par 3 Golf Course and Holmes Field. We have also removed the dead trees at the Elizabeth Street tennis courts and replaced them with Oak and Cherry trees. We have replaced 344 feet of fencing at Enfield on Field 1. Our top priority at this time is to complete the South Park project and have it ready for the 2011 softball and baseball season. We are behind schedule as the plans for the concession stand, restrooms and storage building have taken longer at the engineering level than anticipated. We now have the plans for the building and informal bids are being received. We anticipated the building to be build by mid-fall as well as the fields either being sprigged or sodded. The sidewalks, irrigation and fencing should be completed by mid-September and the lights are already up. We will begin replacing the play equipment at Elizabeth Street (Triangle) Park as soon as possible. We have spoken with Miracle Equipment Company and a delivery date of the equipment will be given to us by late next week. We still have some cement removal that needs to be completed before the new equipment, fall zone and fencing can be installed.

Staff feels like that the Knobbs Creek Recreation Center is one of our top priorities. We need to resurface the gym floor. It has a rubberized coating and stripping for volleyball, basketball, fitness and tennis. The floor is literally coming up. We have some big cracks in the floor due to the settling of the building and we also have the surface being worn away. We would like to replace the fan and heating system in the gym to include air conditioning. The gym roof leaks and the problem is coming from the existing fan/heating unit which is 34 years old. This will also help with the condensation on the walls and floors during the spring, summer and fall with the high humidity levels. We would like to replace the heating and air condition system in the rest of the building. The system is also 34 years old. The cost of that would be about \$200,000. The City has applied for a Stimulus Grant to fund upgrading of the heating and air conditioning system in the recreation center, along with installing heat and air

and insulation in the gym, and upgrading and retrofitting all the light fixtures throughout the building to be more energy efficient. We would also like to develop a small patio area between the golf shop and the gym for golfers and basketball players. We have received a \$750.00 donation and it would cost approximately \$1,000 more to get that done.

Our second priority would be the Charles Creek Park with the picnic shelter. We need to do one of two things. We need to either demolish and replace the shelter or repair it. The cost difference is \$60,000 to repair the existing building and \$150,000 to demolish and rebuilding the building. The synthetic play turf would be nice but it is not something that we have to have. We also would like for you to consider return the back park to the natural state just as was done at the Fish Courts.

Our third recommendation would be Waterfront Park. The boards along the boardwalk need to be replaced. There are some issues with wash outs along the edge of the boardwalk. It is one of the most used parks in the City and the most visible park the City has. We would like to put an irrigation system in to keep the grounds in good shape due to the high traffic in the park. Both of those would cost about \$40,000.

Our fourth recommendation would be to work on Holmes Field (Knobbs Creek). Leveling out the outfield and bring in dirt and adding additional sand/clay mixture to the infield. This area was done in the early 1980's and it needs some extensive work. The irrigation system is just about shot. We have already replaced the fencing along the golf course and the ball field. We also need to add a scorekeeper area and replace the PA system. One of the biggest things is to build restroom facilities. As many of you know there are no restroom facilities at Holmes Field and it is a good walk between the field and the building. That is probably the biggest expense that we would have because we would have to put the lines in and put in a pumping station and grinder to get the sewerage up to Ward Street.

Our fifth choice would be the Edgewood Tot Lot. This playground needs to be restored and revamped. Needs all new play equipment for ages 2-12 years old? Also, new benches and greenery. Estimated cost is \$55,000.

Our sixth choice is Gosnold (Sunset) Park. A lot of people have been using this park instead of Dawson Street or Fish Courts. It does have a nice playground area and it does have basketball courts. We would like to go in and light those courts so that it could be just as nice as what Fish Court was at one time. There is also a baseball/softball field out there. If we light the basketball court we would like to also light the field.

Our seventh choice is the Enfield ball fields. We have completed the fencing. We do need new score boards on each of the three adult fields and we do not have a score board at all on the little T-Ball field but they don't keep score anyway. We would like to put some speed bumps or speed humps out there that are removable because people are running through that ball park and we can't keep an officer there. It is a dangerous situation with all the children that we have out there. The tennis courts do need to be resurfaced and we need 3 sets of bleachers and they are about \$1300 per set. The playground equipment is in very good shape but it would be nice to have the synthetic turf underneath. We need to build a maintenance garage and a lean-to at a cost of about \$20,000. Now that we have incorporated some of the County's equipment we need more storage area to store the equipment.

One of the last things is the Dawson Street Fish Courts. As we have talked about before, it is not owned by the City. She has not been able to find anyone that knows anything about the African-American Women's Club. If we do decide to do something or if we can find that we can buy the property or if they would donate it to the City we would like to do a 40 X 80 asphalt ball court. We would need to raise it about two feet, replace the courts, goals and the benches. However, raising the courts may cause the flooding along Southern Avenue and Dawson Street to increase. Cost estimate would be \$50,000.

Our final recommendation is the Northeastern Park. The surface needs to be replaced with synthetic turf. We probably would need to put some trees up. Some landscaping and signage replacement needs to be done. The walking path needs repaired. We need to replace some of the fitness equipment.

Some of the upgrades to our parks are small and our staff will be working on these throughout the year as time and money permit us to complete the necessary changes.

Mr. Olson stated some of the items that are mentioned here we may be able to find alternative funding sources for, but the money to do any of these projects above \$10-\$15,000 is highly unlikely this fiscal year. As Bobbie alluded to we have applied for a number of grants especially for Knobbs Creek Recreation Center. He thinks we probably stand a 25% chance of getting that grant when you look at the scoring associated with that grant. We will probably end up with about a 25% chance of us getting it. The City's staff needs some sort of general direction. He knows that you know that we don't have a lot of money but now is an excellent time for us to do the work and explore funding options so that we can have a package of items to put forward during our next budget cycle.

Councilman Walton said you know some things can be easy fixes. There are some small things that you could take care without costing a lot of money. Just like over on Gosnold you mentioned the fact that lighting would be good but we can't light it and there is no league that is playing softball. Around the bases area in that field, all that would be needed is a little bit of dirt put in those holes. We need to do it right if we are going to do it. Fix up the smaller things.

Councilman Stimatz stated for the smaller parks we do not need to go in and put in the best lighting there is but we may be able to light some of the parks with lower costs lighting.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer asked under our Interlocal Agreement with the County will any of the costs for any of our parks be shared by the County.

Mr. Olson stated he would believe so. There is a section where we are supposed to appoint an Advisory Committee made up of one county commissioner, one city council person, two people from the County and two from the City. They are supposed to look at the capital needs of the parks and rec department. He would anticipate they would make a recommendation for improvements to the City. We would incorporate that into our budgets and submit that budget over to the County and then discuss the improvements with the County. That is how he would envision it to occur next year. If the Council wants to pull something out from the parks and rec budget and fund it under a capital budget you can do that. That is what we did with Triangle Park. The County is not paying 55% of the installation of anything at Triangle Park. We are paying 100% of that. You still have the flexibility of doing that if you believe it has a higher priority than the Advisory Committee did.

Ms. Hummer asked if anyone surveyed Fun Junction to see if that could be used in some of these areas until we do have some money.

Ms. White advised that we cannot move Fun Junction's equipment. It was developed with a PARTF Grant also. We have been in there and cutting down bushes, removed a lot of the debris that was around the old swimming hole. The platforms for the life guards have been removed. We are really trying to spruce it up some. There will be no swimming out there as we have turned it into a fishing pond.

Mayor McLean said he would like to say that we now have a plan that can be used to come up with a budget for maintenance of our parks and recreation for next year.

#### **4} PARKS AND RECREATION FEES:**

Mayor McLean called upon Ms. White for comments.

Ms. White stated for the August 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting the Parks and Recreation staff prepared a memo concerning increasing some of the fees and charges for our various programs and facilities. This increase in fees is needed due to the shortfall in funding from Pasquotank County. At that meeting, the Parks and Recreation Department staff was instructed to prepare information concerning the fee increases and have it placed on the August 23, 2010 work session. What we did is we went through each of our programs that we offer. Some of them we take registration for but the money does not come directly to us such as the American League Soccer Organization and the ELCiPaCa Babe Ruth as well as the Albemarle Sr. Babe Ruth. We really don't want to increase our fees but we also see that we have a shortfall in the budget and we need to come up with some type of remedy for that shortfall. She went through the proposed changes as well as the comparison between Camden and Perquimans fees.

Mr. Stimatz said since we have county residents using city property that was paid for by city property taxpayers should we consider additional fee on county residents.

Mr. Olson said he doesn't think that will be allowed under the Parks and Rec Agreement. You need to remember that under the agreement the County is paying 55% of all of the net expenses. The program income generated is net. We back that out and whatever the actual expenses after the income has been created is what we split 55-45%.

Ms. White stated what she is saying if we increase the fees and if this year is exact thing as last year with increasing the fees we can close the gap by \$17,265.

Mayor McLean wanted to know if we were talking about increasing our fees now within this fiscal year.

Councilwoman Meggs asked if the County has ever come up with their money.

Mr. Olson said he sent out memos after the last council meeting concerning the correspondence between himself and the County Manager and his subsequently response back concerning the Board of County Commissioners not fully funding what we requested. He thinks that is still an open item. The Board of County Commissioners just went across the board and started cutting things to balance their budget and unfortunately the Parks and Rec Department and the Senior Citizen Center became a casualty of those eleventh hour budget reductions. Under the Interlocal Agreement we provided the County a copy of our Budget as of April 3<sup>rd</sup>. He did not receive any type of negative correspondence concerning

what we had submitted to them. So, when the Council adopted the Parks and Rec budget we did not know of any issues that the County had with what we had included in our budget.

Ms. Meggs said so they just ignored it.

Mr. Olson replied that he didn't want to speak on behalf of the County Commissioners but they had some severe financial issues at the County this budget year and they just kind of cut and diced a lot of different things to get their budget into compliance.

Councilman Stimatz said so we are back where we were when this first came up. He asked the question then that if you were asking us to increase the fees on the citizens of Elizabeth City to make up for a failing on the part of the County Commissioners to meet their obligation under the Parks and Recreation Agreement.

Mr. Olson said he would change the focus of that. What we are saying is we are raising the fees for anyone that participates in the program whether they are city residents or county residents they would continue to pay the increase in fees. But, what you are saying to a certain degree is correct.

Mr. Stimatz said what he is hearing is we are making up this deficit. Are we raising this because we need to or are we raising it because the County isn't paying their fair share?

Mr. Olson replied that he thinks it is a combination of both. When we did an analysis of our user fees we did think that we needed to come up. We didn't come up in every area but just those areas that we thought that we needed to be more competitive or generate additional revenue. As you can see we only receive \$55,000 under the existing rate structure and the new rate structure will be \$72,000.

Mr. Stimatz wanted to know the last time that we increased our rates was.

Ms. White responded in 2008 we increase only a few items. Before that it was in 2003.

Mr. Stimatz said that he hopes the press reports this correctly. Here we are again, making up for the County's fiscal decisions.

Mayor McLean asked when we took over the Parks and Rec from the County what was the amount of additional funds we received for doing that.

Mr. Olson replied \$619,000. They basically went from \$419,000 to \$698,000. We also took over the maintenance of their six parks, all their staff and everything else.

Mr. McLean said wouldn't it make sense to hold off from holding a public hearing until we have had a chance to meet with them to determine as to whether or not they are going to meet their requirement. Is that something that we can take a look at or not. We have not yet met with them to discuss this difference of \$29,114.00.

Mr. Olson said it is really more than that. That is only their 55%. When you look at the total reduction it is more like \$43-\$44,000. That is what we have to cut the parks and rec budget because we are responsible for the other 45% to live within the spirit of the agreement. Under the existing agreement they are responsible for 55% and we are responsible for 45%. Based on what they had budgeted in their budget we need to reduce the overall parks and rec budget roughly by \$44,000.

Mr. McLean said so if they don't give us the \$29,000 we are going to be short by \$43,000 based on the formula.

Mr. Olson said based on the formula unless the City Council wants to basically take up the additional funds to run the department.

Mr. McLean said if we get the \$29,000 from the County we will already have our percentage budgeted within the City.

Ms. Blanchard said if we were going to keep the same percentages we would have to appropriate additional funds.

Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence said that in the future if this is going to keep on happening somebody needs to investigate the contract. She anticipates this will keep on happening. If it is happening now there is a possibility that it will happen again.

Mr. Olson said that we had somewhat of a unique situation this year. We approved our budget quite early in the process and he thinks that the County approved their budget the 22-23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Historically, we have approved our budget in mid June. But because we did adopt the budget early this year we are locked in to what we approved. The County also knew that. They knew exactly what we had done with our budget.

Councilman Walton stated that he thinks we should wait on the public hearing until after we meet with the County. We prematurely approved our budget it is



not too late for them to come up with their share if what we said makes sense to them. There are two different groups and they each have different opinions. That is when you discuss, compromise and do all those other things and come up with a logical solution. We are taking for granted that they won't come up. We are running too fast.

Mr. Olson said the item before Council is for the City Council to call for a public hearing to consider an increase in the fees. This would be an ordinance to adopt an ordinance you have to have a public hearing on it.

***A motion was made by Councilman J. B. Walton that we hold off this public hearing until after we meet with the County representatives to see if we get a compromise from them to pay their share of the recreational fees before we put forth an effort to raise the fees. Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer seconded the motion. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Walton, Hummer, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, King, Meggs and Stimatz. Against: None. Motion carried.***

Mr. Olson stated that historically we have had joint city/county meetings on the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. August is one of those months that have five Mondays. He does not know whether or not the City Council would like to have a joint city/county meeting Monday night. If that is the case, both he and the Mayor need to set down with the County Manager and Chairman and line out the agenda for that joint meeting. We also need to know what items this City Council may want to have put on that joint city/county meeting.

Councilman Stimatz said it is his understanding since he has been on Council that normally we would have one scheduled. It was no question if we would have one, we would have one scheduled. The problem is the last time we wanted to talk with the County, the County decided they didn't want to talk to us. The issue that time was fixing the sales tax distribution rate at 75-25 so we could dispense with the need to have gyrations in our budget on either side caused by an increase in property tax by the other entity. That issue was decided by the County and they didn't want to talk about it even though they agreed to tentatively over a year and half ago to discuss fixing it. He thinks this is another issue regarding fiscal policy. Given what he has read in the paper that was reported about in the Wesley House article where we appear to them to be taking arbitrary actions without consulting them. He says that we have always been open to a meeting on the fifth Monday of the month; we just haven't gotten much response from that building across the street from here. You can phrase it the same way you did in your paper article with them. We still don't have an Interlocal Agreement on 911. He is prepared to pull the funding on that right now. We don't have a contract. What services are we getting, we don't

know. What accountability do we have? None. There is a whole list of issues that revolve around mainly contractual agreements, either the lack thereof or the failure to follow that are well worth discussing. Now, whether the County wants to discuss them or not is another issue but we have always been open. This has been a discussion item amongst council members for the last six months. He will speak for himself and he would love to meet next Monday and three of the items he would like to have on the agenda are: 911 Interlocal Agreement, fixing the sales tax distribution at 75-25 and abrogation of the Parks and Recreation Agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer stated that she thinks we should definitely come to a consensus tonight on the items that we want on the agenda because in the past in several joint meetings with the County when she would bring up an issue she would be told that wasn't the place to talk about it. We need to stand firm on the things that need to be discussed. That is the place to talk about whatever our concerns are.

***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilman R. E. King to contact the Board of Commissions and request that we hold a Joint City/County meeting on Monday, August 30, 2101 at 6:30 p.m. with the place to be determined at a later time; and further moved, that the following items will be on the agenda: 1} 911 Interlocal Agreement, 2} Parks and Recreation Interlocal Agreement and 3} Sales Taxes.***

Councilman Walton said if you only select hard ball items you are doing the same thing we did before. We ended up being hard ball and they ended up being hard balled. You have to put something in there like a softball somewhere.

Mr. King said he thinks that is our problem with the County now. We have been soft balling too much.

Mr. Walton stated that you can't control the County. We can control us. We haven't even talked about the fees. Put things on the agenda that we are having problems with ourselves involving the County. Let's don't just go with the hard ball items.

Councilman King said that we do need to set the items to be on the agenda. The three items that Stimatz mention he agrees too. We have been talking about the sales tax issue for the past ten years. We need to come to a head with that issue. He was on the Advisory Board of 911 and they do have an agreement but he doesn't know if it has been signed, executed or what. We need to talk about that.

Mr. Stimatz said he thinks that fees should be a separate discussion. It is going to have to come up anyway. The fees issue has got to be discussed with them because it is now joint fees. Even though we control it they have to weigh in on it. The three that he said were the ones that have been hanging for three years now. All we have is a resolution from 1994 saying that they will provide 911 services. We pay a fee. We don't know what we are getting, we don't know how much money is going in the pot and we have no clue how much we are due to get. There have been some changes in the law about what you can spend the money on. Since every phone in this county pays a fee for 911, all the phones in the City are paying into that fee and if the County is taking all that money and buying new radios for their police cars and buying new radios for their communications and buying all for theirs and we don't get any then we are getting short shrift. It is no different than the land transfer fees and the sales tax. The sales tax is a long standing issue. It was over two years ago when we gave direction to Olson and Keaton and both groups agreed to come back with a proposal and the County never came through. He knows Rich talked with Randy and nothing every got back on the agenda and when we tried to put it on the agenda in the spring, the County didn't want to talk about it. That just shows us that we don't have to sit here and take it in the shorts the following year when they raise property taxes. That to is him is an important issue because it affects our bottom line significantly. Anywhere from \$100-\$300,000 depending on what they do. That is a significant amount of money. The 911 is just irritating. What he will tell you is that they hosed us on the election funds. They were charging us for election fees that they shouldn't have charged us. Got caught and had to go to the State Board of Elections to get that corrected. Also, got caught charging us two thirds of the total cost for tax collection in the County that was charged to the City. Rich caught that and we turned and we got a big reduction in that. Here we are with a signed agreement on what we agreed everyone was going to pay and we sent them our budget and they want to abrogate it. Don't even want to talk to us about it. They talk about us not wanting to talk with them. These are all budget related issues where it is in their best interest they don't want to talk about it. If nothing else the Recreation Fees, Agreement and Sales Tax we need to discuss.

Mr. Walton said he thinks if we talk sales tax we are talking around in circles because this was the group that originally said they prolonged their budget to try to come up with some funds. They came up short and that is why they cut some of their activities out. For us to go in there and think they are going to give us more money from sales tax we don't even need to meet. We cannot force that group. They have just as much ego as we have. Anytime you have all this ego playing against one another you don't go very far. If we go in there with an open mind saying that we may not get anything out of this but still discuss it but let's don't try to force things on the commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer said that she thinks we also need to clear the air on the joint commissions that were established by Legislature so that at budget time next year we don't run into all these near misses on funding for those important authorities like the Airport Authority and others. She thinks it is the perfect time to address it. She doesn't think that we are ever anything but professional. She doesn't think that we try to force things we are the ones that aren't being reimbursed.

Councilwoman Baker said she is all for a city/county meeting but unfortunately she cannot be at one on Monday as she will be out of town. Do we have a signed Water Agreement? Has that been signed?

Mr. Olson said he believes that it has been executed.

Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence said she was just coming on council when we voted a few months ago to enter into this agreement but had she known all of this that you are revealing tonight she would not have voted the way she did. She thinks we need to look at if they are going to follow the agreement. If they are not going to follow it then we don't have an agreement. Rich just brought to her attention that they did the same thing on the Airport Authority. They reneged on how much they were obligated to fund. There is no sense to keep going over the same cycle. Maybe we need to start looking at the agreement and see if both parties are going to agree to keep the agreement as stated because if not we don't have an agreement. We would have something on paper but in actuality we are not fulfilling any obligations.

## **5} COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

a} Albemarle Economic Development Commission: Mayor Pro Tem Hummer said they had an economic tour last week when Congressman Butterfield was in town. Mr. Harris and she went along representing the Economic Development Commission. The first place that was toured was DRS. She thinks Congressman Butterfield at the very start was very supportive of our Aviation Program. This tour gave the new management at DRS the opportunity to talk with him one on one. Then there were other sites but elected officials were not invited on that tour. In the afternoon there was a special treat for Congressman Butterfield as well as everybody else that wanted to attend. That was at the Arts of the Albemarle. It was a performance by young boys and girls age 13-17. Those who are involved in the Arts, Music and Dance and she doesn't think a Broadway performance could have outdone that group. It was really amazing. It was really a nice afternoon and she knows Congressman Butterfield enjoyed it as well as everyone else did. We actually don't have a meeting of the AEDC until Wednesday.

b} Central Communication Advisory Board: Councilman Walton stated they met and one thing that came out of the meeting was we changed our meeting time. Instead of meeting at 6:00 p.m. we will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. from this point on. One other thing that came out of the meeting is the workers that work with 911 somewhere in the western part of the state there was a case where a person was found liable so at this time it is hard for a person to get federal immunity.

c} Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Airport Authority: Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence stated we haven't had a meeting in a couple of months because Mr. Hinton was away doing some business but we are having a meeting scheduled for Wednesday night. We don't have too much going on. She visited the airport in Rocky Mount/Wilson and it was simply beautiful. The remodeling that has taken place there is awesome. We are in the process of how to make our look and she hopes ours looks as well as theirs.

d} Fireman's Relief Fund Board: Councilman Stimatz said they haven't had a meeting scheduled.

e} Joint Land Use Plan Committee: Councilman Stimatz said we are still negotiating the changes that CAMA wants with the Land Use Plan.

f} Joint Redevelopment Commission: Councilman Brooks stated he had nothing to report.

g} North Carolina Eastern Municipal Agency: City Manager Olson stated we did not have the Eastern Agency meeting because earlier this month we had the ElectriCities meeting which Mayor McLean attended.

h} Solid Waste Committee: Councilman King reported we are extending the recycling place at the Coast Guard. We need to make it larger.

i} Tourism Development Authority: Councilwoman Baker reported we are meeting on Thursday.

j} Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.: Councilwoman Meggs reported that they are alive and well. She passed out brochures that advertise Elizabeth City and the Encore Theater. She gave out a list of the Arts of the Albemarle's musical that are coming. We have people that are coming into this town that normally would not be coming. The more things that we have, the more we get recognized. She is so proud that we have our new ECDI Director. She sang Sunday afternoon and she was so proud of the fact that we had one of our staff members that has that much talent. Another thing that we discussed was the HAS Program. That is the History, Arts and Science that is all happening

downtown. Another thing that we are doing is we are planning to have the Christmas event again this year on November 26<sup>th</sup> and that will be the lighting of the Christmas tree, music, refreshment and Santa Claus. That is supposed to be something interesting.

k} Water Committee: Councilwoman Baker reported that they had a very brief meeting and they talked about the agreement that wasn't signed. But we heard tonight that agreement has been signed.

Councilman Walton said they are going to charge everybody the same price on the water.

l} Chamber Board: Councilwoman Meggs reported they have been busy also. We have had some new members and we have had some that had to drop out but we have had more to come in than drop out. We have had ribbon cuttings and that is always good when we have a business that has come to town. We are always excited about that. We had our new Captain from the base at our meeting this past week. We will talk more about Ghostwalk in the next few weeks. If anyone has anything that they can auction off to let anyone from the Chamber know and someone will pick it up.

m} Customer Service Task Force: Councilwoman Baker reported that they have completed that work. The focus groups have completed their work and they were very successful and very well attended. They are now compiling the results and will bring that to the Committee in the first two weeks of September and along with that hopefully recommendations. They will then present that to Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer reported on a "Back to School" bash that was put together by a group of churches and different agencies. It gave all the children that attended the opportunity to have the same school supplies to start school with. It also gave them a day of fun and refreshments. It was very well attended.

Mayor McLean recognized former Mayor Frank Weeks.

## **6} ADJOURNMENT:**

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

***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs to adjourn the meeting. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Meggs, Baker,***

**Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, King, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None.  
Motion carried.**

Mayor McLean adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC  
City Clerk

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Roger A. McLean  
Mayor