

**MONDAY – 7:00 P.M.**

**OCTOBER 10, 2011**

**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 R. A. McLean presiding. Council members in attendance were: J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, L. M. Hill-Lawrence, L. A. Hummer, R. E. King, B. S. Meggs, J. A. Stimatz and J. B. Walton. City staff members attending were: City Manager R. C. Olson, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Deputy City Clerk V. D. White, Public Utilities Director P. A. Fredette, Planning Director J. C. Brooks, Fire Chief L. M. Mackey, Police Chief C. E. Crudup, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, ECDI Director R. Cross, Inspection Director S. E. Ward, Parks and Recreation Director B. V. White, and Human Resource Director K. W. Felton.

Mayor R. A. McLean called upon Reverend Joe Casteel for the invocation after which he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**1} APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Mayor McLean called for approval of the prepared agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer asked to add: ***Comments and Inquiries on Non-Agenda Items.***

Councilman R. E. King asked to add: ***Renaming of Charles Creek Park.***

***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilman R. E. King, to approve the prepared agenda to include the above noted items. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, King, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Meggs, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**2} COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mr. Jack Brothers, 412 Forrest Park Road, Elizabeth City spoke to Council regarding in his opinion what the boaters spend in Elizabeth City. He doesn't see anything that the City does for the boaters. He encouraged Council to consider making showers, washers and dryers available for our boaters.

Mr. Darrell McKinley, 1716 Providence Road, Elizabeth City stated he would like to thank the City for the quick clean-up after Hurricane Irene. When you go into Oxford Heights there are about three or four saplings that the neighborhood keeps trimmed back and he feels the City could come by and use some kind of

method to pull those trees out of the swamp. Also, before Hurricane Irene came in he received a phone call that requested him to leave the City. He has lived here since 1968 and he has never left the City before but he did this time. He has been patiently waiting for his travel claims report to get reimbursed because you all requested him to leave.

### **3} PRESENTATIONS:**

a} Alpha Delta Kappa Month – October, 2011

Mayor McLean called upon Councilman J. B. Walton to read the Alpha Delta Kappa proclamation proclaiming the month of October 2011 as "**Alpha Delta Kappa**" month. Ms. Patricia Britt accepted the proclamation and made brief remarks.

b} Hospital & Health System Pharmacy Week – October 16-22, 2011

Mayor McLean called upon Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer to read the "**Hospital & Health System Pharmacy Week**" proclamation. It was presented to Jennifer Burgess who made brief remarks.

c} Arbor Day – October 21, 2011

Councilwoman B. S. Meggs read the "**Arbor Day**" proclamation and it was presented to Mike Cox who made brief remarks.

### **4} APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

a} September 26, 2011 – Work Session Meeting

Mayor McLean called for action regarding the Work Session meeting minutes that was held on September 26, 2011.

***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2011 Work Session. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Meggs, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, King, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

b} September 26, 2011 – Regular Meeting

Mayor McLean called for action regarding the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on September 26, 2011.

***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on September 26, 2011. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, King, Meggs, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**5} REGULAR AGENDA:**

a} Presentation by Wayne Harris – AEDC:

Mayor McLean called upon Wayne Harris for comments.

Mr. Harris reported on what the community has done to promote job growth and economic growth in the time that he has been here. The Elizabeth City Aviation Research and Development Park as most citizens are aware the City and County each contributed \$200,000 and were able to leverage \$11.6 million in Federal and State Funding to get that park built. We are somewhat disappointed that as to date we have not seen a hanger come out of the ground but we continue to have interest in the site and as the economy improves he is sure we will. Additionally, we were able through the offices of Congressman Butterfield to secure additional \$196,000 grant to secure options on Phase II that will create five more sites for the park. This is important because we essentially have DRS holding the ground lease on the four sites in Phase I. The good thing about that is they are paying the ground lease. The bad news is that we did not have anything else to market until we secured these options. It is a very good development that we secured those options. Phase I and Phase II is out there because you as a council have authorized staff to spend countless hours to develop the park. Ten years from now it will be the largest single catalysis in economic development in this area. Just a brief review of expansions and relocations. TCOM is now up to about 200 workers, DRS has expanded from 100 to 200 employees. DLS employs 75 employees doing work that would likely not be done in the Elizabeth City area were it not for the MRO activity at the aviation park, Moneysworth Commercial Laundry opened and created 20 jobs and Telephonics opened with 8 employees and an investment of \$3.5 million. The Golden Leaf Broadband Initiative's construction is just now coming to this area. At the state level that is \$111 million project. He is estimating the local economic impact will be \$20 million. The VA Outpatient Clinic will employ 12 healthcare jobs and opportunity for many more through ancillary services. The City of Elizabeth City was a key supporter in the launch of the Downtown Waterfront Market, which has become a local landmark and provided a revenue stream for more than 50 local growers and crafters. The City continues to provide setup, breakdown and traffic control. Finally the Desert Winds Energy Project is projects to engender a capital investment that will make Iberdrola

Renewables the largest taxpayer in the County by a factor of 3, generating 300 construction jobs and 100 direct and induced permanent jobs. With no previous North Carolina wind project or state policy to provide guidance, the County relied heavily on the AEDC for research and guidance during negotiations with the company. While the City played no direct role in the project, its ongoing financial support of the AEDC played a critical role in the negotiations. He would also like to mention the generous support to Port Discover and the Arts of the Albemarle. When he brings prospects in town to the Aviation Park if they want to see the community those are two institutions that he makes sure they see because they are typically concerned about workforce, about the attitude of the local community toward education and aviation and Port Discover and Arts of the Albemarle are proof that this community values those things and are making a major investment in them. He briefly went over the tax revenue of Halstead Boulevard Extension. We are in tough economic times but each of you have played a role in this and have much to be proud about.

b} Update – Crime Statistics Analysis and Crime Fighting Initiatives:

Mayor McLean called upon Police Chief Crudup for comments.

Chief Crudup stated as part of the crime statistics analysis, he reviewed the index crime for the last five years. He went over a listing of the total number of shots fired calls and also reviewed our crime rate in comparison to cities of similar size and population. There has been an overall decline in crime for the past five years. He discussed the initiatives that are currently in place aimed at reducing crime in this City and community programs that promote gang awareness, retention and prevention. In response to the challenges presented five years ago we have added 7 police officers bringing the total to 63 sworn officers. A full-time gang prevention officer was added using grant funds. A city-wide surveillance camera system was installed to monitor criminal activity. A zero tolerance mandate was enacted with aggressive enforcement actions enforced, technological and equipment improvements were made and we directed sector patrols, special operations and checkpoints. A Community Action Team was created. We strategically placed our manpower in high-crime areas and added three canines to our K-9 program. We revised our Youth Protective Ordinance broadening our curfew hours in an effort to protect our youth. Currently there are 50 validated gang members and 13 of those are incarcerated at the present time. He briefly went over the crime statistics for 2006-2010. Finally the police department is committed to the safety of all citizens who live, work and play in Elizabeth City. The department will continue to enforce special operations such as "Operation Eagle Eye" in an effort to reduce crime and the fear of crime in Elizabeth City. The Department will continue to provide career development opportunities for all personnel to ensure the best services possible are provided to our citizens. We will continue to reach the youth of this

community through the Police Athletic League Program, the Adopt-A-Cop Program and partnering with YouthBuild.

Lt. Jamie Lacombe spoke regarding some of the special operations that the department has conducted in order to get where the Department is today.

Councilman Brooks stated you said five years ago Elizabeth City Police Department was faced with many significant challenges. You said we identified more than 300 gang members and associates and he has a problem with that in that you are putting the associates in with the gang members.

Chief Crudup stated that associates are those that hang around with the gang members. In some crimes we were able to identify those associates. This is common when you start looking at suspects and who is associated with them.

Councilman King asked how he went about validating someone as a gang member. What do you look for and what signs do they give?

Lt. Lacombe replied that there is a system that you do. Self admittance is one of the signs and another is wearing attire of an affiliation or that type of stuff. Others are tattoos, burn marks and through the interviewing process. We don't just go out on the street and randomly pick people and say you are an associate of a gang member. Another way is gang literature found when we do search warrants. These are all things that we look for.

Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence stated she worked with drug intervention and drug dealers and usually true gang members don't wear all of the stuff. They do not want to be identified so they don't wear it. They don't leave markings behind on buildings because they don't want to get caught. Secondly, in terms of association, that will always be a problem because you can have some friends that you are unaware are into drugs. We don't have drug intervention in our school systems. She knows doing police work in Boston that was one of the things that when we went to arrest somebody we take everybody. Everybody goes down and everybody is questioned. We put them in a drug intervention program because they were hanging with people dealing with drugs. We need to help steer our kids to the right path.

Councilman Stimatz said zero tolerance mandates, zero tolerance of what?

Chief Crudup replied all crimes.

Mr. Stimatz said on your productivity stats he would like to see a breakdown of the types of crimes you are making arrests for and giving out tickets for and he

would also like to see what the trend for that is. More particularly you had 3512 arrests, how many convictions did that result in?

Chief Crudup replied he couldn't answer that right now.

Mr. Stimatz said we had an individual with 40 or more felony arrests and no convictions and no jail time until recently because we went to the feds. We bypassed the District Attorney's office and went to the feds and we got something done. That is a concern. You guys are arresting these guys, bringing them in and yet they are walking the streets. The key question for all of us is where is the problem? If you get 300 convictions out of 3500 arrests, that is a terrible number and there is a problem somewhere. You guys are not getting the right evidence, the DA is not taking these guys to court or the judges are turning them loose. There is a problem somewhere in the system and that is a problem we need to get at. He would like to see the breakdown of the five years by year and the types and he would like to know what your convictions are on felony arrests and misdemeanor arrests.

Councilman Walton said he works at the Alternative School and the kids talk about gangs and the types of clothing that the gang members wear. He observes things through the kids. They know the names and the ones that are in the prisons. He has seen names in the newspapers that he identifies with. Just because he can identify them doesn't mean he is a member. The police department has done a good job because crime has decreased a lot.

Mayor McLean said the numbers speak for themselves. You have done a good job. He thanked the Chief and the Police Department for what they are doing.

c} Update on 1165 Highway 17 South:

Mayor McLean called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson stated NCDOT has completed their hydrological work on this project. They have requested an interpretation from the Attorney General's office to determine if additional right of way may be needed on the Barclift property. The Council needs to remember that NCDOT never secured any rights of way or easements from the Barclifts when the project was originally designed in 1965. The easement was secured from the property owner to the south of the Barclift property. NCDOT does not have an easement on the Barclift property. NCDOT once again reinforced their commitment to do the project. The exact start date has not yet been determined.

Councilman Brooks questioned the exact start date. The canal next to the property is almost swallowing their home up. The reason why he has pushed

this and if he is no longer on Council someone will need to continue to fight this item. You can't let this senior citizen's house just fall in the canal when we are aware of the problem. He will continue to bring it up and ask for updates. These are the issues he likes to be concerned about. What is important to him is to make sure the citizens in Elizabeth City are taken care of to the best of his ability. He loves helping those that are trying to help themselves.

d} Update – Hayes Iron & Metal:

Mayor McLean called upon Mr. Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson said as he alluded to at the last Council meeting we have installed the "no parking" signs. The street between the two Hayes Iron and Metal sites has been inspected. Besides a small area the road is well within the design preambles of normal wear and time. The owner has not installed the new fence yet around the southern part of the site but he is committed to doing that. He is actively looking for a new site where he can increase his operations.

Councilman Stimatz said he would like to go back to some of the questions that he asked earlier. Why are we not going to require him to restore the right of way to where it was before which was grass. He will note in the picture that you provided it says, Hayes Iron & Metal continues to keep the city's right of way clear of their operation. The semi tractor is parked in the right of way.

Mr. Olson said that truck is leaving the site. He thought the same thing but when he talked with the people they told him that truck was exiting the property.

Mr. Stimatz said over the right of way and they are continuing to damage the right of way. His question is he would like to know what your plan is to have that right of way restored. The other thing is staff sent a letter advising them to install the fence. In an article in the Daily Advance Mr. Wright stated no fence will be going up. He will shut the doors before he puts another fence up. He is not going to put a fence up and he is not going to keep going inside the fence issue. Here he is saying no fence but yet you are telling us there is a fence. So who is telling the truth here?

Ms. Brooks stated in the last conversation with Mr. Wright he indicated that he would be putting up a fence, a six foot opaque fence, and the email that was followed up from him stated it would go up in 30-days.

Mr. Stimatz said his last question is have you and staff discussed the hazardous material questions?

Mr. Olson replied no we have not.

Mr. Stimatz asked when could he expect a response on that. Can we take our own soil samples and send them off?

Mr. Olson stated he thinks this is an issue for closed session.

Mr. Stimatz said he is not talking about their property. He is talking about soil samples on the City's right of way which they are using and they have stuff stacked on and people have reported liquids were dripping out of the containers they had stored on that site. If the rain fell on that ground he can guarantee you it went out to the roadway. There is every indication that we don't have to test their property, we can test the City's right of way. He said that the last time. He understands the issue about going on private property and in fact it doesn't belong to Hays Metal as it belongs to someone else. Has the property owner been notified of such a thing? Let's stay focused on City property.

Mr. Olson replied that if Council wants us to take soil samples we will be happy to take soil samples and send them off to the appropriate place.

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman R. E. King that we take soil samples along the City's right of way along Second Street where the operation of Hayes Iron and Metal occurred and send them out for testing for hazardous materials.***

Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence asked what would you be testing for, anything in particular.

Mr. Stimatz replied whatever EPA calls a hazardous material, particularly he has been told PCB.

Mr. Olson said we would be looking for heavy metals and DOCs. Those are what we would be looking for.

Councilman Walton said so if it does come back hazardous what steps do we take from that point on?

City Attorney Morgan stated that is something that we need to assess at that time. Let us just see what the results are.

Mr. Walton said there is no need to vote on anything if you don't have a purpose in mind. Why vote on it.



Mr. Stimatz said what will happen is we will get the report and depending on the level that is in the report, whoever does this either EPA or the State Lab will tell us where there are harmful levels. If there are harmful levels by law we will have to mitigate. You have to have a mitigation plan and you have to be approved and you have to go execute it.

Mr. Olson said this site has been use for an industrial use for the past 50 years and it will be hard for us to determine exactly who contributed to that and that is when it would be turned over to the EPA for some type of report and action.

Mr. Walton asked if there would be a cost to the City.

Mr. Olson replied you are probably looking at \$5,000 to do the testing.

Mr. Walton asked if this could end up in a court case with additional costs. If so, how costly would that be? He thinks this discussion should be in Closed Session.

Mayor McLean asked what gave you the impression that there are hazardous materials on site. Where did we get that idea from and who received that idea?

Mr. Stimatz said the fact that numerous residents in the area reported sheen on the water that comes off that property and he had a source inside to tell him that specifically. We can find out the truth or not as all we have to do is check it. If these are bad things to have around, we are not supposed to have them around. If we are exposing our citizens to them we shouldn't be. We are supposed to look out for the public's safety.

Councilman King said once we pay the money couldn't we get Hayes Metal to pay for it.

Mr. Olson said any course of action would be against the property owner not against the tenant. The property owner would then have the right to bring in the responsible party.

***A motion was made by Councilman J. B. Walton, seconded by Councilwoman B. S. Meggs that we table this item to Closed Session as per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3).***

Mr. Stimatz said he is just asking for a survey. He is not asking for anything past that. He thinks we owe our citizens some sense of obligation that we care whether the soil is contaminated or not. He doesn't see any reason to table it. There is discussion that should probably go on in Closed Session but the action he has asked for specifically only deals with the City's property. He is just trying

to determine the status of the City's property. That's it. That is all he is looking for.

Councilwoman Baker said she doesn't understand why Closed Session.

Mayor McLean said he can make a point. You don't want to get people alarmed to the extent that they feel as there are hazardous materials in the area without substantial evidence saying there is.

Ms. Baker said but we are not talking about what is there just that we are going to take a soil sample to see if there is something there. Is that not the motion?

Mr. Walton said he doesn't see paying \$5,000 just to see if there is something there. Why find out if there is something there and then do nothing else with it.

Councilwoman Meggs said if we do it there should we go all over town where there is stuff just as bad as that is. If we are going to do one then we need to do them all.

Mr. Stimatz said he is only interested in this one. If you all find one and want to bring it back that is fine. Ms. Hummer and he has been dealing with this one for two years and we have got nothing but people in the neighborhood concerned and he is concerned for them for their safety and health and their children's health. There are little children that play right there.

Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence said she wants to be clear on this. There is something that is leaking from the trucks on the payment or where is this residue coming from.

Mr. Stimatz said it was reported to him that it is coming from the materials that are stored there waiting to be salvaged. Compressors, condensers, air conditioners, etc. they have liquids inside of them that are hazardous. If they leak out and contaminate the ground then the ground becomes contaminated and that is an issue. He is not asking to go on anybody's property as he just wants to know what is in the city's right of way.

Mr. Walton said just stirring up fear and then doing nothing about it doesn't make any sense. Why stir up fear and do nothing with it. He doesn't see where we have to pay \$5,000 to stir up fear and getting the community all upset. They are already upset enough. If we are not going to do anything about it then why do it.

Mayor McLean said what type of oversight does this company have upon it. Oversight such as being watched for hazardous materials or waste. Do they have licensing?

Mr. Olson said he doesn't believe so. He is not sure what licensing they have. They are a recycling company. If we identify there is a problem then we will be responsible for cleaning up that site. We can ask Hayes Iron and Metal to do some testing or the property owner to do some testing voluntarily and see exactly what comes from that.

Mayor McLean called for a roll call on the vote of the motion to take this item to Closed Session,

***Roll Call Vote:***

<b><i>Brooks</i></b>	<b><i>yes</i></b>
<b><i>Stimatz</i></b>	<b><i>no</i></b>
<b><i>Meggs</i></b>	<b><i>yes</i></b>
<b><i>Hummer</i></b>	<b><i>yes</i></b>
<b><i>Walton</i></b>	<b><i>yes</i></b>
<b><i>Baker</i></b>	<b><i>no</i></b>
<b><i>King</i></b>	<b><i>yes</i></b>
<b><i>Hill-Lawrence</i></b>	<b><i>no</i></b>

***Motion carried 5 yes and 3 no.***

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman R. E. King to take this item to Closed Session tonight under consultation with the City Attorney as per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3). Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, King, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, Meggs and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

e} Charles Creek Park renaming for Moses Grandy:

Mayor McLean called upon Councilman King for comments.

Mr. King said he asked for this to go on the agenda because he is asking Council to give staff permission to look into changing the name of Charles Creek Park to Moses Grandy Park. The reason he is asking it to be changed is because Moses Grandy was born in Camden County back in 1786 and he was a slave. He used the waterway of Pasquotank County. Back in 2007 he played the role of Moses Grandy and it was very interesting. Charles Creek Park is named behind Charles Creek. It should have some significant name. It is right there by the waterway

and Moses Grandy used that waterway and he was a slave. We should name that park after him. He talked to a couple of historians here in the City that knows much more than he knows about Moses Grandy and he was a large part of this City. He is asking Council to let's change the name from Charles Creek Park to Moses Grandy Park. Right now we need staff to do some research on it and bring it back to us at our next work session.

Ms. Meggs said she feels that the community should have some say so on this issue.

***A motion was made by Councilman R. E. King, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to instruct staff to do some research on Charles Creek Park and bring the information back to our next work session for consideration at that time. Those voting in favor of the motion were: King, Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, Meggs and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

#### **6} COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer said she asked our Economic Developer to come tonight and give us an update on the fact that we are working very hard to bring jobs to Elizabeth City and we do offer incentives. She thinks it was long overdue being said and that is because we haven't invited Mr. Harris to come and speak. She would like to reiterate a little bit of it like the Aviation Research and Development Commerce Park. The incentive that we provided was that \$1.5 million bridge loan until the grants came in. The Downtown Waterfront Market may have seemed like a small project to start with and that has provided a revenue stream for more than 50 local growers and crafters. This was a wonderful opportunity for them. Even though the City didn't have a direct role in the Desert Winds Energy project EDC played a critical role in the negotiations. The VA Outpatient Clinic will provide 12 healthcare jobs. The last figure is really a tremendous thing to know. The value on undeveloped land on the Halstead Corridor is \$58,774,800. All that is in the Second Ward. She just wanted to talk about the good things that we are doing and she really appreciates Chief Crudup and Lt. Lacombe coming up tonight and giving us all these statistics. Hopefully, it will set everyone's mind at ease that we really are on top of everything. As she has said before people can get a gun anywhere and walk in anyplace and kill and there is no way to prevent that.

Councilwoman Hill-Lawrence said she wanted to report on a meeting that she attended in Raleigh on the 28<sup>th</sup> with the Legislative Action Committee. She just wanted you to know that the report that we got at that meeting from the attorney who said it is tough getting anything through up there now. He is

having a difficult time getting anything to happen. He did ask us to stay on course and keep the leadership involved and let them know what is going on. At that meeting we decided that we are not going to have meetings in Raleigh all the time but we are going to come to different cities so that we can actually see cities in action and see some of the work that is being done. We put together the agenda for the meeting that will be held later in the month. Some of it centers on community building and economic development. They did talk about the electric situation a little. She also brought Tony's request about the insurance rates and they put that on their agenda as well. Also representatives from NCDOT were there and they said they wanted to be more transparent in the community engagements. One of the things she brought up was the stop light at Fork Forks. She asked why we didn't get it verses what we got and he told me from an engineering standpoint they see things different than we do and the flow of traffic didn't generate a traffic light. It is safer to have the stop signs.

Councilwoman Meggs said she attended her first CTP meeting and that was to get the survey for these roads and we will find out a little bit more about it at our next meeting. She went to Little Washington for a Highway 17 meeting and they were very pleased of the fact that we included them in our contributions. She is serving on the Budget Committee. The next thing she wanted to mention is how hard we worked to do Coast Guard City. We started working on it and it was taken away from us. We still have not done anything about trying to become a Coast Guard City. She hopes we will try to get this designation.

Councilwoman Baker said she wanted to briefly talk about last week and how busy it was and how much great stuff was going on. Some people think there is nothing for tourist and residents to do but we had our First Friday Art Walk, the Ghost Walk and Port Discover Flight Simulator opening. She would like to thank the City employees for their assistance in helping with Ghost Walk. It was a great weekend with lots going on and next weekend we will be having ESCU homecoming.

Councilman King said he doesn't have anything but he would like to wish all the candidates the best of luck tomorrow on the elections.

Councilman Stimatz asked how are we doing on Viking Way.

Mr. Olson replied the sidewalks are complete and we are waiting on the stamp.

Mr. Stimatz said he wanted to echo what Ms. Baker said. There is a lot going on. Not just downtown because there are all kinds of fund raisers around town. There are lots of people selling stuff for good causes. We had the hunger walk on Sunday. There is a lot of volunteerism in this town and he is really amazed at

how much effort people put into the community to make it a better place. We should applaud our citizens for all that they do. It makes it a better place to live.

Councilman Brooks said he wanted to thank the Police Department for those interesting statistics. He wants to take the time to thank the Mayor Pro Tem for inviting Wayne Harris our Economic Developer here. He thinks he did a marvelous job. As he listens to the forums of those running for election you would be of the impression that there are no jobs or anything being done to bring any jobs to the City. That is not true. Wayne Harris and the Economic Development are doing a great job under the chairmanship of Mayor Pro Tem Hummer. He wants to thank him for that. He won't address this in too much depth because he has talk to those that can do something about the situation and he told those at Debry and he also told the Director that he would mention it on Council but he has made phone contacts through the appropriate people to make sure that things happen in a positive note. He received an email from one of the Board Members and it wasn't truth in facts so he will let her Board Members handle that. Again, don't forget to vote tomorrow. Tomorrow is the last day to vote so he wants everybody to go out and vote. With all the forums he has been hearing all kinds of things about Council and sometimes he sits there and wonders if he is on the same council when he hears those running talk about what this council is not doing. We have accomplished a lot of things even in the mist of our family feuds. He keeps hearing the word stability but when you have eight different people you will have eight different opinions. He wants to take this time to address this Council under the leadership and guidance of Mayor Roger McLean. You can say what you want to about Mayor McLean but he thinks he has done a great job. Mayor McLean has stuck with the electric rates and most of the time he takes his personal time to go to Raleigh and whatever needs to be done to address this issue. He has talked with other Mayors about this issue. He has stuck with it. He has an issue with those that say that nothing can be done. That means that you are not going to try. Mayor McLean has stayed on this. He is not tooting his horn because he gets tired of hearing the negative stuff about what is not being done when he has been very positive within it. Mayor McLean was instrumental in finding the \$650,000 to reduce the electric rates. Yes it was only 1.5% savings per household but when you are making minimum wage and the previous council raised it anywhere from 10 to 15% and we reduced it by 1.5%. It doesn't sound like a lot of money to those that can pay it but those that are struggling from paycheck to paycheck it is a big savings. Meads Pool was closed but under Mayor McLean we have reopened it. He gets tired of hearing the negative stuff but we do have some positive stuff going on. He wants to thank those on Council and Mayor McLean. Please go out tomorrow and exercise your right to vote.

Councilman Walton said the Mayor's Youth Task Force did meet last Thursday. Mike Williams gave us a tour of what is happening at the old Middle School.

There is a process but they are doing some great things over there. It is basically for the youth. If you keep the youth busy crime will eliminate itself. It was a positive tour and it will be really nice when they finish the product. We talk about Viking Way but we can also go Elizabeth City Way. We need to go out and support ECSU on Saturday. You talk about civility and Mr. Morgan you can help him with this. When a person comes to that podium and use the "h" word and the "d" word, isn't there something that we can do to stop that. To him they are words that he doesn't use or allow his kids to use. He would prefer not to hear words of that type.

Mr. Morgan said although those are words that we would prefer not to be used they are not words that rise to the level of obscenity. So we have to allow those words. In a public forum those words are allowed.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer said she wanted to mention that once again on Veterans Day which is November 11<sup>th</sup> we are planning a Veterans Day ceremony. We are not in any way trying to take away from the other two veteran's ceremonies. Ours will start at 9:00 a.m. and we will try to hold it to one hour. New Hollywood has one at 11:00 a.m. and Westlawn has theirs at 1:00 p.m. This was so well received last year and we wanted to do it again. We will have more information at the work session.

Mayor McLean said he wanted to thank Dr. Clay Perkins, President of Mid Atlantic College for the Certificates of Appreciation that was given to us last Sunday. It was really a moving event. He attended an event with the National Association of Negro Women. Chic Filet is in town and open for business. The Albemarle Education Foundation had a very nice event last week. We are looking forward to ECSU homecoming. ECSU received a new airplane this morning around 11:30 a.m. They now have two planes. A couple of weeks ago he met with the Tax and Finance Committee of the NCLM and we discussed the issue of our high electric rates. Benson, North Carolina backed him up on what he was trying to get across about our high utility rates. They heard what we had to say and they are going to wait and see how the Bills come out relative to the Study Commission. As you know Bill Owens, our representative was appointed to the Study Commission. He really thinks the whole thing of the State working with us to address our electric rates is taking shape. The General Assembly gave the final nod to the contract that was signed roughly 30-years ago. If we could get a 35% reduction in our utility rates that would mean \$15 to \$20 million for this area which is money our people can keep in their pockets and do the kind of things that they need to do. We are happy about that. This is not a campaign speech but it is something that is good. There are a lot of things happening in Elizabeth City. He does about ten to twelve things a month and he misses about 10-12 things a month. The last twenty-one months he has attended over 200 events in Elizabeth City.

**7} CLOSED SESSION:**

Mayor McLean called for a motion to retire into Closed Session.

***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilman R. E. King to retire to Closed Session for consideration of acquisition of property as per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) and Consultation with the City Attorney as per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3). Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, King, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, Meggs, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

Mayor McLean declared the meeting into Closed Session.

**8} RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:**

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman R. E. King to return to regular session of Council. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, King, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, Meggs and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

Mayor McLean declared the meeting back into Regular Session.

**9} ITEM FROM CLOSED SESSION:**

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilwoman L. M. Hill-Lawrence to table action on the Hayes Iron and Metal for one month in order for staff to conduct further research. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Hill-Lawrence, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, King, Meggs and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**10} ADJOURNMENT:**

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

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to adjourn the meeting. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, King, Meggs and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***



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

---

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC  
City Clerk

---

Roger A. McLean  
Mayor