

**MONDAY-7:00 P.M.**

**DECEMBER 10, 2007**

**CITY COUNCIL (1)**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City held its first meeting of the month on the above date and time in Courtroom A of the Pasquotank County Courthouse with Mayor C. L Foster presiding. Council Members attending were: J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, L. A. Hummer, B. S. Meggs, E. K. Rivers, D. K. Stallings, J. A. Stimatz, and J. B. Walton. City Staff attending were: City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce-Tamplen, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Deputy City Clerk V. D. White, Public Utilities Director P. A. Fredette, Inspections Director S. E. Ward, Parks and Recreation Director J. D. Overman, Fire Chief W. C. Pritchard, Police Chief C. E. Crudup, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, Human Resource Director K. W. Felton, Planning Director J. C. Brooks and Electric Superintendent K. F. Clow. Also in attendance were: Mayor-Elect S. S. Atkinson, Councilman-Elect R. E. King and Councilwoman-Elect V. C. Watts.

Mayor Foster opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. He called upon Pastor C. D. White for the invocation after which the Elizabeth City Fire Department Color Guards presented the colors and City Manager R. C. Olson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**1} RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Mayor Foster recognized former State Senator and Mayor Melvin E. Daniels, former Mayor and Councilman H. Rick Gardner, former Mayor John H. Bell, former Councilwoman Myrtle Rivers, former Councilwoman C. C. Austin, former Councilman and current County Commissioner Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Commissioner Bill Trueblood, County Manager Randy Keaton and Chancellor Willie Gilchrist.

**2} APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Mayor Foster called for approval of the previous meetings minutes.

***A motion was made by Councilman E. K. Rivers, seconded by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to approve the minutes of the Budget Work Session held on May 21, 2007, Budget Work Session held on June 4, 2007, Work Session held on November 26, 2007, Regular Meeting held on November 26, 2007 and Closed Session minutes of November 26, 2007. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Rivers, Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Hummer, Meggs, Stallings and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**3} PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION:**

Mayor Foster presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Willie Gilchrist, Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University for his assistance with the Aviation Park project.

**4} REMARKS:**

Mayor Foster advised that remarks would be made by those members that would be retiring from City Council at the end of the meeting.

Councilman E. K. Rivers questioned the reason why Councilman D. K. Stallings' name was omitted from the list of those making remarks.

City Manager R. C. Olson answered saying that the issue at hand was that Councilman Stallings has been elected to a seat on Council, but due to the complaint regarding his residency, he cannot be sworn in until after the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month when the State Board of Elections will make a ruling on his residency standing.

Councilman M. E. Brooks stated that the Bible tells him that all things work out for the good for those that love God and are called upon for a purpose. His life is a purpose of God. There have been many firsts in this City within the last two years, some good and some bad. The election of the first Mayor of African descent shows that our citizens can vote change. This was the first time a City Council was under an investigation not knowing who called it, why they called it or even if they had the authority to call it. This was the first time that there had been so many elections protests and appeals because of inconsistency in the interpretation of the law. His first is, seek you first the continue heaven and righteous and all those things will be added upon him. God is a righteous God. That means that God is always on the side of right. It is right for Oxford Heights to have an evacuation plan for the flood waters that engulfed their neighborhood. It is right for the citizens on Roanoke Avenue to be able to ride down their street free of bumps and bruises. It is right for Oak Grove to get the same treatment as other annexed areas of the City and our children to be able to live their childhood and our senior citizens to live their golden years in our City. He is a servant to these things. The purpose for which he was called as a Councilman and as your future Mayor.

Councilman J. B. Walton said that he wanted to thank God for allowing him to serve this City of Elizabeth City which is the best city in this world for the last four years. He was born here and you don't have to be on Council to serve as he plans to continue to serve our citizens. He would like to thank those that voted for him for those four years and tried to vote him in the third time.

Sometimes in politics and politics is not easy because you do what you think is best and you are not going to satisfy everybody. As soon as you solve one problem there are other problems. You know when you get problems you do have the chance for the opportunity to solve them. He thinks that the last Council did a good job of solving problems. It is not what you take away from the Council it is what you leave at the table. He thinks that we did a good job of leaving certain things at the table. We kept the utility bills down as much as possible, we did not increase taxes and he knows everybody is excited about Southern Avenue. We did a lot of things that were positive. Everybody didn't appreciate it because some people are satisfied but there are always those that are going to be trifling. We have always had some no matter how many problems you solve. What we are all leaving at the table is and the next Council will have to solve these problems but we would love to see the Aviation Center completed in two years. The Convention Center is on the table. Water problems and that was not a three minute's ring of the bell was it because he has a couple of more minutes before he finishes. After you solve one get ready for the next one because they are coming. You have got to have tough skin to deal with them. Betty, he thanks you for being you. You have always been pretty much down the center. Tony, he thanks you for being you. You are most always to the right and I am to the left and opposite do not attract. He needs about two more years to work with him but he enjoyed it. He saw Mayor Bell last night and he has been off Council for two years and that guy has lost four inches around the waist and he looks like he has grown three or four more inches taller. Again, he would like to thank the City of Elizabeth City for allowing him to serve them and peace be to all of you and let's try to do the right things. Kids need opportunities and if we don't give them opportunities we give them a chance to do other things. They take their opportunities and do what they know to do best. That is where crime comes from. One of the biggest things and he knows the new mayor says that he is going to start a crime task force, but we need the opportunities also. With no opportunities no problems will be solved. We have a lot of vacant buildings. Let's think about a skating ring for the young kids and give them somewhere to go. Let's don't lock them up. Find some opportunities for the kids.

Mayor C. L. Foster said that first he would like to thank God and the citizens of Elizabeth City for electing him to be your Mayor two years ago. He wants to thank God for the success that he allowed his administration to have. He recalls how the Hugh Cale project and God even allowed it to be built right across from the church and they have been doing excellent work there with our young people. Many people doubted it and many people criticized it but he wants you to know the work it has done for our youth you should be proud of. They are continuing to do that work and will even after he is gone. He also wants to thank God because he knows that all across America communities are having financial problems but Gob blessed us and we had enough surplus funds to give

all of our employees, not just a few, but all our employees raises. Then when he looks at how God has blessed us pertaining to our streets and sewerage he does not think that any Mayor paved more streets than what was paved these last two years. He gives God the credit for that. He also has seen how the ministers and pastors in this city have gotten together and we sponsored a massive march to let the world know that we are going to take back our streets because people were afraid to sit on their front porches, go to church meetings at night and he knows that God worked with us and now people can sit on their porch. The people at Blackwell Memorial Church can feel a little safer. No city is completely free of crime but we should salute the work of our police department these last two years as they have done outstanding work even though they are understaffed, but they have done outstanding work these last two years. Also, God brought him to Elizabeth City in 1959 to teach at the local high school and he has noticed for the first time since he has been here that pastors and the faith community have gotten together and made a commitment that we were going to work with our police department and city council and this is the very first time because so many faith people sometimes have got the wrong idea about government. So many people think that politicians are dirty. There is nothing dirty about politics as God ordained government. We are going to support our City Council and our police department. This is the first time that has ever happened in Elizabeth City and he is happy about it. God will answer our prayers and prayers are being answered concerning race relations, public relations and for those of us that have been here for years, we can now see a big difference in public relations and race relations in our City and we are to give God the credit. Last, but not least we have got to understand that we have neglected our youth. The way that we did the Boys Club was wrong. If you are going to close something down you need to have something to put in its place. It is his prayer and very soon that over here on Elizabeth Street that God will allow a space there to be used for a Boys Club program. He just wants to say that Elizabeth City has been good to him and his family. He wants you to know that it is truly the City of Hospitality and even in his going out he wants you to know and don't feel sorry for him or think that he is sad because he is really going to be about his Father's businesses because God has already shown him what he has for him to do and it is a greater work. He just wants to thank you and he wants the new Mayor to know he is still going to be here in Elizabeth City and he will still be here working and doing what he can to make life for our citizens better. Again, he wants to thank the City Council as you can say what you want to but we really did a great job and our City Manager worked along with us and he is just so thankful for their support and corporation.

**5} ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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

Mayor Foster adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC  
City Clerk

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Charles L. Foster  
Mayor