

City Manager R. C. Olson called upon Pastor Mike Frese, First United Methodist Church, for the invocation after which Fire Marshall Barry Overman entertained with a solo rendition of Star Spangled Banner.

Mr. Olson recognized the Honorable Judge J. C. Cole, First Judicial District, for the formal delegation of the Oath of Office to Mayor Elect-S. S. Atkinson, Council-Elect J. M. Baker, B. S. Meggs, L. A. Hummer, R. E. King, E. K. Rivers, J. A. Stimatz and V. C. Watts.

Mayor S. S. Atkinson asked the newly elected Council to please take their seats

**1} RECOGNITION OF RETIRING MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:**

Mayor Atkinson presented plaques to Mayor C. L. Foster, Councilman M. E. Brooks, Councilman J. B. Walton and Mayor Pro Tem L. A. Hummer.

**2} ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM:**

Mayor Atkinson entertained nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman J. A. Stimatz nominated Councilwoman J. M. Baker.

Councilman E. K. Rivers stated that he would like to nominate a person that has been consistent and a person that is always giving of herself. She has not petitioned him for this nomination but as he looked around he couldn't think of any other person that is more deserving. She is always trying to keep the Council in line and always smiling no matter whether we agree or disagree and most important she is always the same year round. He would like to take the honor and privilege to nominated Councilwoman B. S. Meggs.

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman R. E. King to close the nominations. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, King, Baker, Hummer, Meggs, Rivers and Watts. Against: None. Motion carried.***

Mayor Atkinson called for a vote on the nomination of Councilwoman J. M. Baker. Four votes were cast thereby granting the position of Mayor Pro Tem to Councilwoman J. M. Baker.

Councilwoman B. S. Meggs asked that members of Council to please accept unanimously the appointment of Councilwoman Baker as Mayor Pro Tem. Those casting their support to Ms. Baker were: Meggs, Baker, King, Stimatz and Watts. Hummer and Rivers declining to cast their votes.

**3} REMARKS:**

Mayor Atkinson stated that he would like to thank all the individuals that have come tonight in recognition of this new council and he would like to call upon each member of Council to make any remarks they would like.

Councilman R. E. King said that he would like to say thank you and he would like to pledge his support to the Third Ward. He thanks his family, his church family and the citizens that cast their vote for him in the election. He is going to try his very best to do what is right for the citizens of this City.

Councilwoman B. S. Meggs said that she appreciates her church family and all those that have supported her. She looks forward to the next two years and to be working again on the City Council.

Councilman E. K. Rivers said that he would like to thank his wife, his parents and all those supporting him in the Fourth Ward. He looks back and sees the mistakes that he has made as well as the growth that he has matured to where he is at today. He appreciates the opportunity to be able to set here and participate in another swearing in occasion as well as the opportunity to be able to voice his vote on this Council. In any election year you hear new ideas and you can take those new ideas and move forward with them.

Mayor Pro Tem J. M. Baker said that she would like to thank those citizens in the First Ward and she would also like to thank the Council for those supporting her as the Mayor Pro Tem. She told someone today that she was so excited about the potential that this Council has for the City of Elizabeth City. She is just excited about that potential and moving forward with new faces and new ideas.

Councilwoman L. A. Hummer said that she would like to thank her supporters in the Second Ward who placed their trust in her one more time. The ten years that she has served on Council has been a tremendous honor and pleasure and especially serving as your Mayor Pro Tem. It is such an exciting time for our City. She would also like to thank Mayor Foster for appointing her to the Albemarle Economic Development Commission and that Board for selecting her as their Chairman and that has also been a pleasure and there are so many things on the horizon. She feels that Board will leave a legacy and she thinks

that our previous Council leaves a legacy also. When we were sworn in two years ago we had a 2% Fund Balance and today we have a 21% Fund Balance.

Councilman J. A. Stimatz stated that like his colleague he would like to thank the people of the Second Ward for teaching him a lot. He still has a lot to learn. His first two years were a learning experience but his next two years will see him taking on the concerns of his ward. He will leave you with one thought. It is a quote that he picked up many, many years ago and kept it in his desk when he was in the Coast Guard for almost twenty years. It is a quote from Edmund Burke who was an English Legislator back in the 1700's. The quote was, "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win the world is for enough good men to do nothing." We need to take that to heart. He has asked twice that we create a task force on at-risk youth. Our children are the ones that will be running the world in the future. They are the ones that we are going to depend on to take care of us. If we don't take care of them they can't take care of us.

Councilwoman V. C. Watts said that she wants to thank God first and she would also like to thank her husband. There are not enough words to thank all the people who helped her during the campaign. She also wants to thank Mr. Walton because even though she was running against him she was also running against a friend. He was an absolute gentleman throughout the entire campaign. With all due respect she would like to say thank you to him.

Mayor Atkinson said that he would make a few comments. He thinks that the City of Elizabeth City is bright and the future is very bright. It is with great enthusiasm that he looks forward to working with the newly elected City Council to continue moving our City in a positive direction. He promises to do everything in his power to see that Elizabeth City is the best it can be for all our sakes. City Council and he are ready to begin working in the spirit of harmony and cooperation to do the right thing for this City. In the near future, members of City Council and he will gather at a retreat to set goals and objectives for the next two years. He asks for your prayers to give us the wisdom and courage to make the decisions in the best interest of the City and the people that we serve. Many of you attended the kick-off this morning for the new Arts of the Albemarle Center. It was a great day for Elizabeth City. It was a great day for the arts. He was fortunate enough to be able to attend and it was an absolute wonderful day. He can remember back a few years ago when the Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association got involved with that building and made it possible for the Arts Council to pick the building up and make it what it is today. Those people deserve a round of applause. He wants to finish by saying that Elizabeth City is a great town and North Carolina is a great State. He wishes each and everyone one a very Merry Christmas, a safe holiday and a Happy New Year. God bless Elizabeth City and God bless America.

**4} ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Atkinson advised that due to the City Council having additional items that will need action he would entertain a motion to recess this meeting until Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

***A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem J. M. Baker to recess the current Council meeting to Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to be held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Baker, Hummer, King, Meggs, Rivers and Watts. Against: None. Motion carried.***

Mayor Atkinson invited everyone to a reception.

Mayor Atkinson adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

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Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC  
City Clerk

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Stephen S. Atkinson  
Mayor