

**City Council Organizational Meeting  
December 14, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met for its Organizational Meeting on Monday, December 14, 2015 in the Gaither Family Auditorium at the Museum of the Albemarle, 501 S. Water Street, Elizabeth City, NC. This meeting was the first meeting of the newly elected members of the City Council following the October 2015 municipal election. Prior to the meeting being convened, The Honorable Edgar L. Barnes, Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District One administered the oath of office to the mayor and members of the City Council.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Joe Peel  
Councilwoman Jean Baker  
Councilman Ray Donnelly  
Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer  
Councilman Tony Stimatz  
Councilman Michael Brooks  
Councilman Rickey E. King  
Councilman Darius Horton  
Councilman Johnnie Walton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Rich Olson  
City Attorney Bill Morgan  
Finance Director Sarah Blanchard  
Planning Director June Brooks  
Police Chief Eddie Buffaloe  
Electric Superintendent Karl Clow  
Assistant to the Manager Angela Cole  
Human Resources Director Katherine Felton  
Public Utilities Director Paul Fredette  
ECDI Director Wade Nichols  
Parks and Recreation Director Bobbi White  
City Clerk Vivian White

The City Council organizational meeting was called to order by Mayor Joe Peel at 7:29 p.m. Mayor Peel welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Pastor Phil Dowdy to give the invocation after which Mayor Peel led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Agenda Approval:**

Mayor Peel requested Council's pleasure regarding approval of the prepared agenda.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Anita Hummer, seconded by Councilman Darius Horton, to approve the agenda as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Donnelly, Hummer, Stimatz, Brooks, King, Horton, and Walton. Against: None. The motion carried.**

**2. Recognition of Immediate Past Member of City Council – Kem Spence:**

Mayor Peel invited former Councilman Kem Spence to join him at the podium. Mayor Peel presented a plaque on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Elizabeth City to Mr. Spence for his time, energy and service, both emotional and physical, to the City of Elizabeth City during the period 2011 to 2015.

**3. Consideration - Election of Mayor Pro Tempore:**

Mayor Peel requested the Council's pleasure regarding election of Mayor Pro Tempore.

**Motion was made by Councilman Ray Donnelly, seconded by Councilman Darius to nominate Councilwoman Anita Hummer ad Mayor Pro Tem.**

**Motion was made by Councilman Michael Brooks, seconded by Councilman Johnnie Walton to nominate Councilman Johnnie Walton as Mayor Pro Tem.**

**Mayor Peel called for the vote on the motion to nominate Councilwoman Anita Hummer as Mayor Pro Tem. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Donnelly, Hummer, Stimatz, King and Horton.**

Mayor Peel announced that the motion carried and congratulated Councilwoman Anita Hummer as the Council's Mayor Pro Tem.

**4. Consideration - Adoption of Rules of Procedure:**

Mayor Peel requested the Council's pleasure regarding the adoption of the City Council's Rules of Procedure.

**Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Rickey King to adopt the City Council Rules of Procedure for the upcoming Council term. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Donnelly, Hummer, Stimatz, Brooks, King, Horton and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**5. Consideration - Adoption of 2016 Meetings Calendar:**

Mayor Peel requested the Council's pleasure regarding the adoption of the 2016 Meetings Calendar for the City Council.

**Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Rickey King to adopt the following calendar of City Council meetings as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Baker, Donnelly, Hummer, Stimatz, Brooks, King, Horton and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
January 11, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
January 25, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
February 8, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
February 22, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
March 14, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
March 28, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
April 11, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
April 25, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
May 9, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
May 23, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
June 13, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
June 27, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
July 11, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
August 8, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
August 22, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
September 12, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
September 26, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
October 10, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting

October 31, 2016 (NCLM Conference 10-23 thru 10-25)	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
November 14, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
November 28, 2016	5:30 p.m.	Work Session
	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting
December 12, 2016	7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting

**6. Remarks by Mayor and City Councilors:**

Councilman Donnelly wished former Councilman Kem Spence the best and said that he had enjoyed working with him. He challenged the City Council to work together going forward for the betterment of all citizens of the City. He stated that he was committed to the downtown area, but realized the importance of helping all areas of the City in order to move the City forward. He said that he hoped the Councilmembers would recognize the value that everyone has to offer.

Councilman Walton, quoting Ecclesiastes, stated that there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. He said that it is great to wake in the morning and realize that you have another chance. He stated that the previous Council had encountered problems, but God had provided an opportunity to do better. He congratulated all newly elected Councilors. He stated that the Council needed to provide direction to the City Manager and Mayor regarding what the Council hoped to accomplish. He stated that each member of Council had passions and purpose and each should follow the prescribed processes in place, such as the City Charter. He suggested that the Council conduct a retreat in order to pursue one accord and pledged his cooperation.

Councilwoman Baker stated that she agreed that everyone needed to work together for the City's betterment. She said that she appreciated all that Mr. Spence had done for the citizens of the City. She stated that she hoped that the Council would work together in service to all citizens of the City going forward.

Councilman King thanked everyone for the part they played in his election to the City Council and said that he looked forward to working as a united body to put the best interests of the citizens first. He thanked Mr. Spence for his tireless efforts in serving the residents of the Third Ward.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer thanked Mr. Spence for his service and stated that she admired his tenacity in securing answers to the hard questions he had while on Council. She also thanked everyone for their trust in electing her to another Council term. She said that she was very proud of the accomplishments made by the previous Council in spite of all their differences. She thanked the Council for their confidence in her election as Mayor Pro Tem and said she looked forward to the future.

Councilman Horton thanked God for the opportunity to serve the City of Elizabeth City again. He stated that he did not take the opportunity lightly. He thanked his mentor, the late Rev. Dr. Charles Foster for planting the seed to help him realize that service to our fellow man is of the utmost importance. He stated that even though the Councilmembers have many differences, he was thankful that each has the strength to work together to continue to make Elizabeth City "the Harbor of Hospitality." He thanked Mr. Spence for his wisdom and for being true to himself while serving the citizens. He said that he looked forward to serving another term. He recognized the members of his church family who were present and thanked them for allowing him to serve as a Councilmember. He also thanked members of his family for their encouragement and wisdom.

Councilman Stimatz stated that one of the speakers during the meeting had said that man should work justly, love mercy, and walk humbly; and he said that he would do his best to do so. He wished everyone a joyous Christmas season and reminded everyone that this season is a celebration of Christ in our lives.

Councilman Brooks thanked everyone for the part they played in his re-election. He said that he had recognized God's Hand as being present during the campaign. He said that when he got out of the military, he ended up in Elizabeth City; and had faced many trials during his tenure on Council. He thanked God for bringing him through it all. He solicited everyone's prayers for himself and everyone on Council. He thanked Mr. Spence for his heartfelt service to Elizabeth City.

Mayor Peel congratulated all members of Council for being elected. He congratulated Councilwoman Hummer for being elected as Mayor Pro Tem for the next two years. He also thanked everyone who voted for him as well as everyone who had worked on his campaign. He said that the Council had accomplished quite a bit over the last four years and stated that he looked forward to completion of a number of projects. He pointed out that the Council had a lot left to do. He acknowledged that the Council consists of nine very different individuals and stated that was the reason for the Councilmembers' election – to assure that all points of view are considered. He said that the Council may not always agree on everything; but disagreement does not mean that the Councilors do not like another person. He stated that he felt that during disagreements, it is very important that Councilors respect one another and understand that is the way democracy works. He said he looked forward to working in a positive way toward the City's progress.

He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited everyone to join the Council for refreshments in the lobby of the Museum.

#### **7. Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

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Joseph W. Peel  
Mayor

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Vivian D. White, CMC/NCCMC  
City Clerk