

**City Council Regular Session  
August 8, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in regular session on Monday, August 8, 2022 in Council Chambers, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor E. Kirk Rivers  
Mayor Pro Tem Kem Spence  
Councilman Johnson Biggs  
Councilman Joe Peel  
Councilman Jarvis Gibbs  
Councilwoman Rose Whitehurst  
Councilwoman Katherine Felton  
Councilwoman Barbara Baxter  
Councilman Johnnie Walton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Interim City Manager Montique McClary  
City Attorney Bill Morgan  
Interim Electric Department Superintendent Karl Clow  
Chief of Police Larry James  
Deputy Chief of Police James Avens  
Interim Human Resources Director Monica Cole  
Fire Chief Chris Carver  
ECDI Director Debbie Malenfant  
Public Utilities Director Dwan Bell  
Assistant Public Utilities Director Ryan Howell  
Parks and Recreation Director Sean Clark  
Parks and Recreation Superintendent Darris Sawyer  
Community Development Director Kellen Long  
Grants Management Specialist Jon Hawley  
IT Director Matthew Simpson  
IT Systems Analyst Pedro Holley II  
City Clerk April Onley

The City Council regular session was called to order by Mayor Kirk Rivers at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Rivers welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Pastor Stallings to provide the invocation, after which everyone joined for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:**

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

Mayor Rivers noted that the Council would need to add a closed session for business development before the existing closed session for personnel. Councilman Peel requested that item C be pulled from the consent agenda and added to the regular agenda. Mayor Rivers also added a proclamation for Health Center Week under Mayoral Recognition. Motion to approve by Spence, seconded by Peel. Unanimous.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kem Spence, seconded by Councilman Joe Peel to approve the agenda as amended. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter, and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**2. Mayoral Recognition:**

**a. Key to the City – Senator Steinburg**

Mayor Rivers introduced Senator Steinburg as a champion for the City of Elizabeth City and ECSU. He said our representatives have secured millions for our city, including money for the aviation park, COA and ECSU. We've received over \$50 million in funds for our area over the last two years thanks to the senator and his support. Senator Steinburg thanked the Council and said he was humbled by the key presentation. He stated that he'd always believed that "as Elizabeth City goes, so goes the region." He affirmed his great hopes for Mayor Rivers and the Council as a whole, and believes they will do things that have never been done. He said he was hopeful that he will have the opportunity to work with the Council to make the area's dreams a reality. "Momentum can be lost very easily if you don't have the right advocacy, so we should all keep that in mind."

**b. Key to the City – Rep. Hunter III**

Mayor Rivers thanked Representative Hunter for his help in securing funds for Elizabeth City. He said he greatly appreciated the ease of access and help that were offered to the Council when they were in need. Representative Hunter thanked the mayor and councilors for the key, and said he was honored and felt that his charge to respect the city and district had been reinforced by this event. Representative Hunter presented a check from the NC General Assembly in the amount of \$4.7 million for project in Elizabeth City. Mayor Rivers noted that thanks to this contribution, we would be able to correct some infrastructure issues, and most importantly, we would be able to do so without having to raise the taxes of our citizens.

**c. Judge Eula Reid**

Mayor Rivers presented Judge Eula Reid with a mayoral certificate of recognition as a thank you for her participation in the Council's swearing in ceremony.

**d. Department of the Month – Parks and Recreation**

Director Sean Clark accepted the certificate on behalf of his department.

**e. Department Head of the Month – Sean Clark**

Director Clark thanked the Council for the recognition, and noted that he could not succeed without the support of his excellent staff.

**f. Proclamation – Health Center Week (As Added by Mayor Rivers During Agenda Adjustments and Approval)**

Mayor Rivers advised that he would deliver the proclamation as soon as a member of the organization could be present to receive it.

**3. Comments from the Public:**

Mayor Rivers inquired of the Clerk whether there were any persons present who wished to speak before the Council. Upon the Clerk's reply that there was one, Mayor Rivers asked that they be called to the podium.

**Linwood Gallop – 604 Cardwell Street – Elizabeth City, NC** – Mr. Gallop said he was present because the General Assembly is trying to take away part of the Constitution and put it in the hands of the General Assembly itself. He said he believed that our rights are under threat, and if the Supreme Court gives the General Assembly what they're asking for, it will change the way we vote in this country without allowing people a say so. He asked the Council to go to the justice department and speak with the Attorney General. "Each one of you took an oath to defend the constitution – you don't have power to enforce your own oath. How can you enforce that? You can't unless you put the Bill of Rights into city ordinances."

**4. Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Rivers read the Consent Agenda items into the record, as follows:

**a. Consideration – Ordinance for Back-to-School Bash;**

**ORDINANCE #2022-08-01**

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH EVENT**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Elizabeth City acknowledges a long tradition of providing community-wide events for the pleasure of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Elizabeth City acknowledges its citizens realize a financial benefit from holding community-engaging events; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Elizabeth City acknowledges the festival event requires approximately one hour to install signing and traffic control, amusement and entertainment structures and equipment, food and other retail vendors, and other attractions, and also requires approximately one hour for removing same, and litter;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the City Council of Elizabeth City pursuant to the authority granted by G.S. 20-169 that they do hereby declare a temporary road closure during the day(s) and times set forth below on the following described portion of a State Highway System route:

**Date:** Thursday, August 25, 2022

**Time Duration:** 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

**Route Description:** East Ehringhaus Street from the South McMorrine Street intersection, eastward to the South Water Street (SR 34/1164) right-of-way  
South Water Street/Southern Avenue (SR 34/1164) intersection at Riverside Avenue intersection

This ordinance to become effective when signs are erected giving notice of the limits and times of the parade, and implementation of adequate traffic control to guide through vehicles around the parade route.

**SECTION I. EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Ordinance, as revised herein shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**SECTION II. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, or part of provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then it is expressly provided and it is the intention of the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City in passing this Ordinance that its parts shall be severable and all other parts of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and they shall remain in full force and effect.

**READ, CONSIDERED, AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, during which a quorum was present, held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.

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E. Kirk Rivers  
Mayor

*Attest:*

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April D. Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

**b. Consideration – Ratify Resolution for ARPA Funds;**

**RESOLUTION #2022-07-02  
Authorizing ARPA Fund Utilization for Grace Drive  
and Herrington Village Pump Station Improvements**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following statements have been made and hereby authorized by the body whole:

**WHEREAS** on June 28, 2022, the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City did meet in open session, wherein a majority of the members were physically present; and

**WHEREAS**, during that meeting, the Council voted to authorize a sum of \$500,000 in ARPA funds to be used for pump station improvements at the Grace Drive location; and

**WHEREAS**, it came to the Council’s attention that, as the Herrington Village pump station is interconnected with the Grace Drive pump station, that motion must be amended to include the Herrington Village pump station as well; and

**WHEREAS**, the original motion was amended to reflect the following:

*"By motion, the Council authorizes the use of \$500,000 in ARPA funding for pump station improvements at the Grace Drive and Herrington Village locations."*

**Adopted** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022

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E. Kirk Rivers  
Mayor

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April D. Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

- c. **Consideration – Appoint Assistant Finance Director as “Finance Officer” (Removed from Consent Agenda and Added to Regular Agenda During Agenda Adjustments and Approval);**
- d. **Consideration – Service Contract for Vulnerability and Risk Assessment;**
- e. **Consideration – Adoption of Compliance Plans;**

**RESOLUTION #2022-08-01  
SECTION 3 ACTION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elizabeth City was awarded a CDBG-Infrastructure (CDBG-I) grant from the North Carolina Department of Environment Quality (NCDEQ), Division of Water Infrastructure, by virtue of this awarded, the City of Elizabeth City is required by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 to adopt a Section 3 Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Section 3 Action Plan is intended to ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, will provide job training, employment and contracting opportunities generated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development projects be given to low-income workers of the Section 3 project area, and that contracts for work in connection with this project be awarded to qualified Section 3 Business Concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, if awarded, it is the intention of the City of Elizabeth City to implement its CDBG-I projects in accordance with all program regulations including the said Section 3 requirements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Elizabeth City adopts the CDBG-I Section 3 Action Plan, which is attached hereto as “Attachment A” and made a part hereof.

**Adopted** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022

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E. Kirk Rivers  
Mayor

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April D. Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

- f. **Consideration – Adopt Bylaws for Human Relations Commission;**

BY-LAWS  
ELIZABETH CITY - PASQUOTANK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS  
COMMISSION

**SECTION 1: CREATION**

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-492, and believing that all citizens have equal rights and each person should show due respect toward another and be courteous at all times, the City of Elizabeth City (hereinafter referred to as "City") and the County of Pasquotank (hereinafter referred to as "County") established on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 respectively the Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Community Human Relations Commission, (hereinafter referred to as "Commission"); and hereby adopt its by-laws to govern its activities, establish its purpose and provide for the appointment of its members.

## **SECTION 2: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Commission is to promote the equal treatment of all individuals; to discourage discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or identification, national origin, age, disability, family status or veteran status; to protect each person's lawful interests and personal dignity so as to make available their full productive and creative capacities; and to promote harmony and equal opportunity among all people.

### **SECTION 3: DUTIES OF COMMISSION**

So it can accomplish its purpose, the Commission shall have the following duties:

- A. The Commission will study and recommend strategies to the Elizabeth City Council and/or the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners for the prevention of potential human relations problems and crises and the promotion of good relations.
- B. The Commission will identify, study, and document areas of human need (housing, employment, education, transportation, health disparities, etc.) in the City and County and recommend strategies for meeting those needs.
- C. The Commission will promote and provide trainings/workshops/seminars for community education and advancement in all human relations issues.
- D. The Commission will promote, provide education and advocate for equal employment opportunities and equal housing opportunities.

- E. The Commission will perform duties assigned by either the Elizabeth City Council and/or the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners.
- F. The Commission will provide opportunities for meaningful discussions on human relations issues throughout the community.
- G. The Commission will advise the Elizabeth City Council and/or the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners of recommended actions to aid and carry out the purposes of the by-laws establishing the Elizabeth City- Pasquotank County Human Relations Commission.
- H. The Commission will prepare and submit at least annually a report to the Elizabeth City Council and the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners.

**SECTION 4: MEMBERSHIP, TERM, AND ATTENDANCE**

- A. Any person holding or filing to seek an elected office is ineligible to serve.
- B. The membership of the Commission shall be thirteen (13) members, with seven (7) members appointed by the City of Elizabeth City and six (6) appointments made by Pasquotank County, as follows:
  - 4 African American;
  - 4 Caucasians;
  - 3 Other Nationalities/Ethnicities;
  - 3 members aged 16-30;
  - 5 women minimum;
  - 5 men minimum;
  - 1 ex-officio member from the Elizabeth City Council and the Pasquotank County Commissioners.

Terms shall be for a period of four years. At the expiration of each of the terms noted above, the Mayor of Elizabeth City and the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners shall fill vacancies by appointing a person to a four-year term. If a member resigns, is removed or becomes ineligible to serve, the Mayor of Elizabeth City or the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners shall fill the unexpired term of the member it had appointed.

- C. There shall be no term limits for membership; however, new members are encouraged whenever possible.
- D. The position of any member who is absent for four successive regular meetings shall become vacant immediately and this position shall be filled by the appropriate elected official.

**SECTION 5: OFFICERS DUTIES AND TERMS**

A. CO-CHAIRS.

1. Diversity:

The Co-Chairs shall be selected to reflect the diversity consistent with the demographics of the community.

2. Selection and Term:

There shall be two Co-Chairs. Co-Chairs shall serve staggered two-year terms. Co-Chair elections shall be held annually in April of the concluding year of a term. Terms shall begin on May 1.

3. Succession:

A member may serve only one complete two-year term as Co-Chair, excluding any time served filling an unexpired term.

4. Duties:

- (a) Prepare an agenda for each meeting and provide a copy of same to each of the members prior to that meeting.
- (b) Determine which Co-Chair shall preside over the meeting consistent with the spirit of cooperation.
- (c) When authorized by the By-Laws or by vote of the Commission, shall appoint Committees and designate a chairperson of each committee.
- (d) Report in writing to the governmental bodies at least once every quarter the activities of the Commission.
- (e) When the Recording Secretary is absent from a meeting or unable to perform the other duties of the office, the Co-Chairs shall appoint a volunteer to serve as Acting Recording Secretary to take minutes of the meeting and perform all duties of the office until the Recording Secretary is able to again resume these responsibilities.
- (f) When the treasurer is absent from a meeting or unable to perform the other duties of the office, the Co-Chairs shall appoint a volunteer to serve as Acting Treasurer to keep the financial records of the Commission and making expenditures authorized by the Commission until the Treasurer is able to again resume these responsibilities.
- (g) By agreement serve as spokesperson for the Commission. If one Co-Chair is unavailable, then the other may be spokesperson. When serving as spokesperson, the Co-Chairs shall avoid expressing their personal opinion as that of the Commission.

B. RECORDING SECRETARY:

1. Selection and Term:

The Recording Secretary shall be elected at the regular meeting in April to serve a two-year term beginning May 1.

2. Duties:

- (a) Take, preserve, and circulate minutes of each meeting for its members. Minutes shall be circulated, together with notice of the time and place of the next meeting at least seven days prior to that meeting.
- (b) Keep an up-to-date roster of the members, their telephone numbers, postal and email address.
- (c) Send all notices required by the By-Laws.
- (d) Notify in writing the City and County of any vacancies on the Commission.
- (e) At least 60 days prior to the expiration of a member's term, notify in writing the City and County of such expiration.

C. TREASURER

1. Selection and Term:

The Treasurer shall be elected at the regular meeting in April to serve a two-year term beginning May 1.



## 2. Duties:

The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the financial records of the Commission, and making such expenditures as authorized by the Commission.

### **SECTION 6: MEETING AND QUORUM**

- A. Regular Meeting: The Commission shall meet each month.
- B. Special Meeting: A special meeting may be called by the agreement of the co-chairs on the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Public Notice shall be provided pursuant to NCGS 143-318.12(2) which states as follows: *"For any other meeting, except an emergency meeting, the public body shall cause written notice of the meeting stating its purpose (i) to be posted on the principal bulletin board of the public body or, if the public body has no such bulletin board, at the door of its usual meeting room, and (ii) to be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to each newspaper, wire service, radio station, and television station that has filed a written request for notice with the clerk or secretary of the public body or with some other person designated by the public body. The public body shall also cause notice to be mailed, e-mailed, or delivered to any person, in addition to the representatives of the media listed above, who has filed a written request with the clerk, secretary, or other person designated by the public body. This notice shall be posted and mailed, e-mailed, or delivered at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting. The notice required to be posted on the principal bulletin board or at the door of its usual meeting room shall be posted on the door of the building or on the building in an area accessible to the public if the building containing the principal bulletin board or usual meeting room is closed to the public continuously for 48 hours before the time of the meeting. The public body may require each newspaper, wire service, radio station, and television station submitting a written request for notice to renew the request annually. The public body shall charge a fee to persons other than the media, who request notice, of ten dollars (\$10.00) per calendar year and may require them to renew their requests quarterly. No fee shall be charged for notices sent by-mail."* Matters not included in the notice shall not be discussed or acted upon at the meeting.
- C. Emergency Meeting: An emergency meeting may be called by the agreement of the co-chairs on the time, place, and purpose of the meeting and by giving no less than six hours' notice. Public Notice shall be provided pursuant to 143-318.12(3) which states as follows: *"For an emergency meeting, the public body shall cause notice of the meeting to be given to each local newspaper, local wire service, local radio station, and local television station that has filed a written request, which includes the newspaper's, wire service's, or station's telephone number, for emergency notice with the clerk or secretary of the public body or with some other person designated by the public body. This notice shall be given either by-mail, by telephone, or by the same method used to notify the members of the public body and shall be given immediately after notice has been given to those members. This notice shall be given at the expense of the party notified. Only business connected with the emergency may be considered at a meeting to which notice is given pursuant to this paragraph."* In addition, NCGS 143.318.12(f), which states as follows, shall be observed: *"For purposes of this section, an "emergency meeting" is one called because of generally unexpected circumstances that require immediate consideration by the public body."*
- D. A quorum shall be present at all meetings in order for the Commission to conduct business. A quorum shall consist of at least seven members present regardless of residency.

### **SECTION 7: NOTICES**

All notices required by these By-Laws shall comply with North Carolina General Statutes, Article 33C, Section 143-318 "Meetings of Public Bodies".

### **SECTION 8: REPORTS**

The Co-Chairs shall report quarterly in writing to the City and County its findings and recommended proactive solutions.

#### **SECTION 9: PERMANENT RECORDS**

The permanent records of the Commission shall be kept at a place to be designated by the City and County.

#### **SECTION 10: AMENDMENTS**

- A. These By-Laws may be amended by a resolution duly adopted by the City and the County.
- B. The Commission may make a recommendation to the City and the County to amend these By-Laws by a written resolution, which is adopted at a regular meeting by a majority of the total Commission membership.

#### **SECTION 11: DISSOLUTION**

The Commission may be dissolved by a resolution duly adopted by either the City or the County.

Mayor Rivers requested the Council's pleasure on the Consent Agenda.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kem Spence, seconded by Councilwoman Rose Whitehurst to approve the consent agenda. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.**

#### **5. Regular Agenda:**

**a. Appoint Assistant Finance Director as "Finance Officer" (*Removed from the Consent Agenda During Agenda Adjustments and Approval*);**

Councilman Peel noted he'd asked this item be pulled for addition discussion because he wasn't quite certain about the explanation. Director Steward explained that based off statute, we need to appoint Assistant Finance Director Lewis as an "officer" in order to allow him to officially be able to sign off on invoices and deposits. Councilman Biggs said he believed it was just a technicality in the law from what he understood, and Director Steward confirmed that was the case.

**Motion was made by Councilman Johnnie Walton, seconded by Councilman Joe Peel to appoint Assistant Finance Director Brian Lewis as deputy finance officer for the City of Elizabeth City. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**b. Consideration – Appointments to the HRC (*By Motion and ROLL CALL VOTE*);**

Mayor Rivers advised that there were three appointments for the newly-created Human Relations Commission for consideration: Sheila Simpson, Mardia Stafford and Pattie Smith. He asked the Council's pleasure on the appointments.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kem Spence, seconded by Councilman Joe Peel to appoint Sheila Simpson, Mardia Stafford and Pattie Smith to the HRC for four-year terms. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter and Walton. Against: None. A roll call vote followed, which yielded the same results. Motion carried.**

**c. Consideration – Appointment to the TDA (*By Motion and ROLL CALL VOTE*);**

Mayor Rivers advised the Council that the TDA appointment he was bringing forward for confirmation was that of Mr. James DuBose Jr., a second ward resident, and the Director of Athletics at Elizabeth City State University.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kem Spence, seconded by Councilman Johnson Biggs to appoint Mr. James DuBose Jr., to the Tourism Development Authority. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter and Walton. Against: None. A roll call vote followed, which yielded the same results.**

**d. Consideration – Traffic Study;**

Public Utilities Director Bell advised that his department had a quote garnered several months ago, which was pushed from the previous Council to the current Council for a decision. During the town forum, citizens brought up concerns about speeding in additional areas of the city and asked for Harney Street and Perry Street to be looked into for traffic calming measures as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Spence said he remembered people complaining about the additional speed bumps that been installed outside of the initially approved ones, and Council had authorized that staff remove those. He said most of the people who were upset about the speed bumps did not actually appear to be residents of the streets where they were installed. He asked Director Bell if he'd been getting complaints lately? Director Bell replied that he'd only gotten one call recently.

Councilman Peel asked if we had the funding available if we decided to move forward with this project. Director Bell responded that we did have Powell Bill funding that could be used for this purpose. He said he was here this evening to determine if it was the Council's wish to move forward with looking into conducting a study on Perry and Harney Streets. Councilwoman Whitehurst inquired if we did the study would the people of those streets be polled? Director Bell noted that, as required by our policy, we would have to have a public hearing to gather citizen input, but the study itself would look into any traffic calming measures.

**No motion was made on this item.**

**e. Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing – Amendment to CDBG-CV Award in Support of Food Bank of the Albemarle;**

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kem Spence, seconded by Councilman Joe Peel to call for a public hearing to be held during the regular session of August 22, 2022 to consider an amendment in support of the Food Bank of the Albemarle. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter, and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**f. Consideration – Submit Request to TDA for ECSU Football;**

Mayor Rivers explained he'd requested this item be added to the agenda. He said that the City of Rocky Mount will be hosting the Down East Classic football tournament this year. Their tourism department awarded ECSU for one game, while the City will be hosting for four games in total. He pointed out that ECSU athletics does not receive state funds. He hoped the Council would want a winning team. Homecoming brings a large economic value to our city. Last year there were only three games, while this year there would be four. He said he felt that we should ask the TDA for \$25,000 for ECSU from our funds. He said we have to make sure that we support our own, particularly when athletics do not receive state funding. The people who are coming down for these games are bringing in buses full of people and the hotels are fully booked. The occupancy tax being collected is quite large and this will allow them to do things. He said he felt this would be important to show we supported the university and one of our own councilors who was a great player who came out of that university.

Councilman Walton added that sometimes what we don't say doesn't clarify what's going on. He noted that the TDA has gotten more rigid about giving out money, and although he didn't

have anything against that practice, he could speak to it because he was on that board. He said he remembered when the TDA got the city to give the Coast Guard money and we would also volunteer and feed during the annual cookout. This year, the TDA denied that funding. "When it takes such a long time to build a bridge, we should not allow someone to tear it down. We are trying to get to the other side together". He pointed out that he was the only one who voted to give the Coast Guard the annual \$2,500. He explained that several years ago, ECSU used to get \$18,000, and now they don't get anything. He said we have almost \$400,000 in the City's "pot" of TDA funding did not feel that using \$25,000 would be detrimental.

Councilman Peel said we can make the recommendation, but agreed that Councilman Walton is absolutely right, the TDA has the final approval even though it's the City's money. Mayor Rivers confirmed they had turned down our previous annual \$2,500 request for Coast Guard Day.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Katherine Felton, seconded by Councilman Javis Gibbs to submit an application in the amount of \$25,000 to support ECSU football to the TDA. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter and Walton, Against: None. Motion carried.**

**6. Closed Session – As Allowed by NCGS 143-318-11(a)(4) for Business Expansion (added during agenda adjustments) and NCGS 143-318-11(a)(6) for Personnel**

**Motion to enter closed session was made by Councilwoman Katherine Felton, seconded by Councilman Joe Peel at 8:01 p.m. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Biggs, Peel, Gibbs, Whitehurst, Spence, Felton, Baxter and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**7. Adjournment:**

The Council returned to open session at 9:33 p.m. Having no other business to discuss, Mayor Rivers declared the meeting recessed until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

