

**City Council Regular Session  
January 24, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in regular session on Monday, January 24, 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 Bettie Parker  
Councilman Kem Spence  
Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Walton  
Councilman Michael Brooks  
Councilman Chris Ruffieux  
Councilwoman Jeannie Young  
Councilman Billy Caudle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Darius Horton

OTHERS PRESENT: Interim City Manager Ralph Clark  
City Attorney Bill Morgan  
Electric Department Superintendent Jason Value  
Interim Chief of Police Larry James  
Human Resources Director Montique McClary  
Fire Chief Chris Carver  
Interim Community Development Director Debbie Malenfant  
Public Utilities Director Dwan Bell  
Parks and Recreation Director Sean Clark  
Community Development Director Kellen Long  
Grants Management Specialist Jon Hawley  
IT Director Matthew Simpson  
IT Systems Analyst Pedro Holley II  
Executive Admin / Deputy City Clerk Doris Walton  
City Clerk April Onley

The City Council regular session was called to order by Mayor Bettie Parker at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Councilman Kem Spence to give the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:**

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

**Motion was made by Councilman Kem Spence, seconded by Councilwoman Jeannie Young to approve the agenda as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Brooks, Ruffieux, Young and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**2. Statement of Disclosure:**

The City Clerk read the Statement of Disclosure. No conflict of interest disclosures regarding items listed on the agenda were made.

**3. Presentation – Employee Retirement**

Mayor Parker read a plaque for Curtis Holley into the record. Mr. Holley was retiring from the Electric Department after 16 years of service as a field technician.

**4. Comments from the Public:**

Mayor Parker inquired of the Clerk whether there were any persons present who wished to speak before the Council. The Clerk indicated there was one individual who wished to speak in person and one emailed comment. She said she would call the in-person commenter to the podium first.

**Anthony Sawyer – 2715 West Main Street Ext** – Mr. Sawyer stated his concern with the panhandling situation in Elizabeth City. He said the worst area was in front of the overpass by Ruby Tuesday's. Additionally, they were several in front of Food Lion on Ehringhaus and people

were afraid to go there because some of them were aggressive. He suggested that we have panhandlers get permits from the police department. He said they swear at people and behave violently. He said one of them told him they get \$300 per day just from panhandling and then proceeded to speak very poorly to him. He reiterated that he felt the Council should have the panhandlers get permits since they are treating it like a job. He felt the gentleman near Ruby Tuesday's was going to cause an accident between people trying to avoid hitting him, stopping to give him money and a few times, he reported that he'd seen people trying to fight him because of how he'd spoken to them. He said he'd seen some of them jump in front of the cars. He said he'd spoken to our police officers who said they'd be fine with enforcing something like he was suggesting if the Council would pass something. Mr. Sawyer said this particular panhandler was breaking state law when he was standing in the middle of the intersection and urged the Council to do something to stop him.

*(Clerk's Notation: Comment was submitted in writing and is therefore included in full)*

**R. Michael Cox – 109 Persse Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – “Mayor and Members of Council, I sent the following message to the Mayor and members of Council on January 10. While I have talked with several of you about my concerns prior to January 10<sup>th</sup>, I haven't heard a response since sending the email. I am asking this message be read as part of public comments tonight. I am writing about the “speed bumps” on Main and Church Streets. I understand there were several citizens present in support of the speed bumps when the plan was discussed. I support speed reduction, but not the frequency and design of these so called speed bumps. This design would be great in a parking garage where you are trying to limit vehicles to under 5 miles per hour. I like the speed bumps on Catalina Ave behind Sonic. Those would be fine downtown. You can reduce the speed limit to 15 miles per hour and I'll be fine. I know the police department is stretched thin, but I am in support of more enforcement for speeders, those that run red lights and stop signs, which I see sadly nearly every day. While I do not have all the facts, I understand there may have been more "speed bumps" installed than were authorized by Council. I am asking Council to *please remove these speed bumps as soon as possible* and let's see if we can come up with a good idea to address the speeding issue on Church and Main Streets.”

#### **5. Approval of Minutes:**

##### **a. December 13, 2021 – Special Work Session;**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Jeannie Young, seconded by Councilman Chris Ruffieux to approve the minutes. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Brooks, Walton, Young and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

##### **b. December 13, 2021 – Regular Session;**

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Jeannie Young, seconded by Councilman Kem Spence to approve the minutes. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Brooks, Walton, Young and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

#### **6. Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Parker requested that Interim City Manager Clark read the Consent Agenda items into the record, as follows:

##### **a. Consideration – Accept Final Bid for 1404 Peartree Road;**

##### **b. Consideration – Authorize Application to the Governor's Crime Commission Local Law Enforcement Block Grant for FY 2022-2023;**

##### **c. Consideration – Authorize Application to the Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant for FY 2022-2023;**

- d. **Consideration – Authorize Application to the NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative for FY 2022-2023;**
- e. **Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing – Petition for Street Closing for Portion of Ward Street;**

**PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION #2022 01-02  
TO CLOSE A PORTION OF WARD STREET  
(FORMERLY MORGAN STREET)**

**WHEREAS**, NCGS 160A-299 authorizes the City Council to close public streets and alleys; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council considers it advisable to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of giving consideration to the closing of a non-state maintained portion of Ward Street, formerly known as Morgan Street, further identified as parcel ID 891416734782 and Map 73-B-1, and shown on the attached map, which is incorporated herein by reference:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that:

- 1} A public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022 in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building to consider a resolution closing this portion of Ward Street.
- 2} The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Preliminary Resolution once a week for four successive weeks in *The Daily Advance*, or other newspaper of general circulation in the area.
- 3} The City Clerk is further directed to transmit by registered or certified mail to each owner of property abutting upon that portion of said street a copy of this Preliminary Resolution.
- 4} The City Clerk is further directed to cause adequate notices of this Preliminary Resolution and the scheduled public hearing to be posted as required by NCGS 160A-299.

**ADOPTED**, this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of January 2022.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

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

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Jeannie Young, seconded by Councilman Chris Ruffieux to approve the Consent Agenda. Those voting in favor of the**

**motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Brooks, Walton, Young and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

## **7. Regular Agenda:**

### **a. Any Item Pulled from the Consent Agenda**

No items were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

### **b. Presentation – Timmons Group;**

Interim Manager Clark advised that this presentation was the follow-up to the WithersRavenel presentation the Council had earlier received about I&I. He noted that Public Utilities Director Bell was not present this evening due to a death in the family, but Assistant Director Ryan Howell was filling in for him.

David Saunders, Principal in Charge at Timmons Group began the presentation. He introduced his partners, Matthew Miller, Senior Project Manager, as well as Kim Hamby who worked locally. Mr. Saunders explained that the purpose of the preliminary engineering study was to better inform the City on decision-making and budgeting. These projects can extend over many years to plan, permit and construct, and they are very expensive. The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) studied many alternatives for proposed improvements or expansions to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. He added that this was done in conjunction with the WithersRavenel study.

Mr. Miller provided background on the City's wastewater plant. He said it was originally constructed in 1965. The current, active plant was constructed in 1996-1997. We are surrounded on all sides by wetlands. Our facility discharges to the Pasquotank River and is regulated by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. Each month, operators must submit a report to NCDEQ to ensure that the City is in compliance. He thanked the City's wastewater department for everything they did and the additional sampling they helped with for the purposes of their study.

Mr. Miller explained that the City's capacity is about 4.5 million gallons per day and our average flow is 3.6 million gallons per day, which is about 80% of our capacity. The single highest day of flow was 14.2 MGS on February 7, 2020, which was treated at our plant over a continual 24-hour period. The second highest day of flow was 11.5 MGD on August 4, 2021. During the week of February 13-19, 2021, the average flow for the entire week was 8.9 MGD with two individual days of flows over 10 MGD. The month of February 2021 saw the City receive violations for its bacteria and suspended solid limits from DEQ, which resulted in a civil penalty.

Councilman Ruffieux asked about the design capacity and average flow. He wanted to know if the capacity is the idle capacity without it flowing? He questioned how we could have a high day of 14.2 MGD when our design capacity is 4.5 only MGD. Mr. Miller explained that wastewater treatment plants are designed with an average in mind, but also with higher peak flows able to be treated for a limited period of time. While sometimes we can accept higher flows, to see it over a sustained 24 hours as high as we've seen, it's concerning and will result in violations.

Mr. Miller continued that the wastewater treatment plant is approaching capacity due to the City's growth and I&I. There are deficiencies in the sewer collection system that cause groundwater and rainwater to enter the sewer, which is then unnecessarily treated at the wastewater treatment plant and "eats up" capacity and causes us to lose space that could be used for growth. He said they'd had a conversation with DEQ in the fall about expansion. DEQ will not allow any treatment plant expansion until the I&I and collection system problems are addressed. He said the 80% capacity is a special benchmark with DEQ, which will bring them "knocking at your door" and asking for a plan that shows how you will either mitigate the groundwater in the system or expand. While they did not explicitly discuss that in their conversation, it's something we should think about. He pointed out that prior to exceeding 90% capacity, we must have all permits required for expansion of our system and be ready to submit plans and specifications.

Mr. Miller noted that multiple alternatives were evaluated in their study. He ran through the list quickly, including equalization storage system; traditional expansion of the wastewater treatment plant; innovative treatment technologies; recommissioning the original 1965 plant; and establishing a new plant located elsewhere in the City. He explained that their recommended solution was a four-phase approach and it really combined a few of the alternatives. He said the first thing the City needed to do is address the rainwater and ground water getting into our collection system. He also recommended that the four-phase approach occur concurrently. This approach breaks up the cost of improvements and makes it more financially feasible and allows us to move forward with improvements only when needed. It also provides the City with the best solutions while maximizing limited space on a constrained site. Phase I would involve an equalization storage system and upgraded headworks. The EQ storage system would not give us upgraded capacity, but would help with storage when we experience high storm flows and minimize peak flows ensuring more reliable operational conditions. He said if we had a 10+ MGD experience, it would likely drop us down to about seven, which is more feasible for our operators to handle without violations. Upgrading the headworks would fix the issue with trash and debris making it through when we have stormflows.

He noted that the abandoned 1965 plant is not recommended for future use. He did not recommend reusing the old tanks there because they did not allow us the storage that we'd need. He also did not recommend recommissioning the plant because it was designed nearly 60 years ago and the limitations could not treat to the new requirements even with upgrades.

Mr. Miller moved on to the Phase II improvements, which were solids treatment train upgrade and conversion to UV disinfection. He said this step would also not gain us total capacity, but would prepare us for the future. In a treatment plant there are two separate parts, one to treat the liquids and one to treat the solids. One of the last steps in the treatment plan is to treat the water. He said for both of these steps he believed there would be cost efficiency. Currently, we have an outside company treating our solids; with this upgrade, it would put the City back in control and provide us with a better end product. The site layout for Phase II improvements would set us up for the future.

Phase III improvements would be ready to move forward once we have again hit the 80% mark and we are projecting future growth. This option would take us from 4.5 MGD to 6 MGD.

Councilman Spence said he remembered when we used to use a sludge hauler and now we have a different company, which was costlier and it wasn't as effective. He said he thought getting the sludge haulers back in would be better for us and save the City money and prepare us to transition. Mr. Miller said he believed their conclusion was similar. He noted he couldn't speak to the exact savings, but agreed it would certainly further our cost savings. He noted that when it comes to solids, they have to be concentrated, and when we do not concentrate as much, we are hauling a lot of water and not just true solids.

Mr. Miller continued that Phase III improvements should include the upgrade of the overall wastewater treatment plant capacity to 6 MGD with AquaNereda by Aqua-Aerobic Systems, which can increase treatment capacity within the existing footprint by using the unique features of aerobic granular biomass. He said that matters because DEQ is getting more stringent with the quality of water that we're sending to the Pasquotank. We would reduce the risk of DEQ coming to us with new limits that we couldn't meet. Phase IV improvements would come into play when we've upgraded our plant many years down the road and find that we need more capacity; we could go from 6 MGD to 9 MGD.

Mr. Miller said he understood that these are substantial expenses, so he did want to touch on some funding options. The first was the American Rescue Plan Funds of which \$15 million was available with an application deadline of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. There was also \$30 million available in North Carolina Clean Water Revolving Funds available per community, and applications would be received in March and September annually. Additionally, there was funding through USDA Rural Development and several options within economic development.

Councilwoman Young asked if the American Rescue Plan funding was one-time or could we get multiple rounds of funding? Additionally, if we received one of these grants could we get others? Mr. Miller said he believed the American Rescue Plan was a one-time opportunity, but he did not believe getting one of these grants would hinder you from applying for another. Mr. Saunders said he believed American Rescue Plan was one-time but that could change in the future. He noted that it could also be a forgivable loan. He added that whatever path the City decided to go, we should involve our financial consultants in the matter.

Mr. Miller explained that modifications to treatment plans had a long design and permitting process, likely about two-and-a-half years. He suggested getting started now to begin addressing the first step because DEQ was likely to begin requesting we correct our I&I. If Council was in agreement with the plan, he noted that the Timmons Group can offer a proposal to perform due diligence and conceptual design for Phase I improvement, an equalization storage system and headworks improvements. They would also assist in confirming project costs and aid in winning funding and grant opportunities.

He said the last item he wanted to touch on was a potential new wastewater plant. They'd spoken with DEQ about a new "south" wastewater treatment plant. Councilman Spence asked if we did the modifications on the existing plant, would a new plant still be necessary. Mr. Miller replied that moving forward with their proposed Phase IV would only get them so far; if growth was so large they needed to go past Phase IV, then at that point they may want to consider it, but not now. Councilwoman Young asked for an idea of what that timeframe could be. Was that five years, 10 years? Mr. Miller said it depended on our growth, but was probably more like 20 years. He said the option of a new plant really warranted much more investigation.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton said that right now, we had about 20,000 residents. He asked how much more growth could we really sustain if we were trying to get to the 6 MGD? Mr. Miller said they could try to determine an exact number, but it wasn't something he could answer off the top of his head. He said it would like be five or 10 years down the road and require a substantial amount of growth.

Councilman Caudle said it was nice to hear that we had the land that we could expand if necessary and a plan to do so. He said even if we've done the first three phases, we still aren't accounting for the major flow days. What do we do when we have the 12 MGDs? Mr. Miller said at each phase, there would still be equalization basins to deal with the high flows; we would not lose that. Given the age of our system, it's a battle and needs to be addressed, but we will always have it. Councilman Caudle said if we built a new plant somewhere, we'd have to pump the treated water up the river and opined that sounded like a lot of money in just piping stuff somewhere. Mr. Miller agreed that it was, which is why he said that idea definitely needed more investigation to show how it would be efficient. He said we'd have to prove that spray fields and spray irrigation was not viable before we could use the river. Councilman Caudle asked for a spray field option, how many acres of land were we talking about? How much would it take? Mr. Miller said it depended on the soil conditions and the runoff. He said in one of the plants in Camden County to do a one MGD plant, it required 500 acres in spray irrigation, so it was a huge area.

Councilman Caudle said we're talking big numbers here, but there's a lot of lead time in this. We've always been given some big numbers about the I&I, but they look small compared to some individual things. Spending money there will kick the can a little further on this investment that our City will eventually have to do. It might be incumbent upon us to at least get the ball rolling. We can always stop ... but definitely get the ball rolling in our I&I. He asked if we didn't expand, if we just built another one in the county, why that wasn't really feasible? If expansion was \$80 million, wasn't building a new one cheaper? That's what they've all been told over the years and this plan didn't really address that. Mr. Miller said there was a little more detail in the engineer report and there were some estimated numbers on a new treatment plant. If we just take the 1.5 million a day in capacity increase and compare that number to a new plant, the dollar per day would be bigger because there are certain aspects of our existing facility that we don't need to build. The unknowns are routing and collection system; where are we going, the river or spraying?

## **8. Manager's Comments and Inquiries on Non-Agenda Items:**

Mayor Parker said that prior to moving on with Council's comments, she'd like to have Attorney Morgan address the vacant second ward seat. Mr. Morgan said former Councilman Adkins resigned from his seat in October. The filing period was within 90 days at that time and the charter provided that we were not to have a special election and should leave the seat vacant until the new election. Now, the Supreme Court of NC has put a stay on all election matters due to the litigation going on at this time and there's some concern about the election being more than 90 days later. The local Board of Elections consulted with the general counsel for the state Board of Elections that he felt that we had complied with the law and with our charter. Additionally, some filings had already occurred. Mr. Morgan said there's no question that we are in compliance with the law and our charter, since this delay was created beyond our control. Section 2.8 of the charter deals with the elections. If we were to decide now that we wanted to hold a special election, we'd be looking at two and a half months out, which would put us into the 90 days again. Mr. Morgan said that in his 10 years of his time as City attorney, we'd done it twice and it cost roughly \$15,000 to hold a special election. Due to the protocol now, it would cost us about \$40,000. His advice would be that since the light at the end of the tunnel is there for the end of litigation, we should stand as we are and not attempt to go through the special election both due to cost and how short of a period of time someone would be in office.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton said the only thing that did was put some at a disadvantage because many of the last things that had been voted on went four to three and it was the same ones voting the same ways. Someone was at a disadvantage and it wasn't fair.

Councilman Brooks said you can't predict how someone was going to vote. If you held a special election and got someone in, they'd have to run again when the regular election came and it made no sense. "You can't decide how someone is going to vote. It doesn't matter whether it's five-three, four-three, two-three. And the price tag is \$40,000? We're going through enough dealing with finances."

Mayor Pro Tem Walton said he wasn't arguing the point of having the election, it was just a disadvantage to a certain group. He was just saying the way things are happening, it was just not a fair setup. That's why in '65, they made it so that equal representation would happen in all wards. He opined that this is not equal. "Four-three is always off-balance. Case in point, we had a meeting set up, a process, took the whole process and did away with it. That's not fair. We had something already set up and did away with it. What did it say in the contract? If the person didn't keep the contract for a year, they'd come back and do it again and they threw it out. That's not fair."

Councilman Brooks said, "That's only an assumption. It's the same difference. If it's four-four and the mayor breaks the tie, it's the same thing. We're talking about what's best for the City. If it doesn't go your way, you think that's the problem. I can walk away at any time. Are you going to have a special election then too? I'm not going to keep dabbling into it. It has no significance. We were complaining about the \$60,000 for fixing our finances, but now we act like \$40,000 is nothing for a special election. You can't determine about a person's mindset how they'll vote or whether they'll even stay on council. It's just a vote here or there. That's my stance."

Councilman Spence said the only thing that concerned him was that now they're saying it was appealed again and it may be extended until June or July and we could end up further behind. He said his church was in the second ward and he'd been asked a lot of questions. He said he wasn't saying do a special election because it was too much money, but we did need to be cognizant of the timeframe.

Councilman Caudle said he appreciated the update but that's not an agenda item and he felt we were delving into something we didn't need to right now. Mr. Morgan said he took responsibility for that, as he'd mentioned that he felt this would be a good time to address the concerns he'd been receiving from the Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton said he'd never said election still, but we needed eight people on Council. It at least needed to go to the Council. He said the four will always have the power to do whatever they wanted to do and he didn't feel it was fair to the citizens.

Mayor Parker said if there were any other options, we'd take those into consideration.

Councilman Caudle thanked the employees for dealing with the weather situation so well and going above and beyond the call of duty.

Councilman Spence wanted Director Bell to know that we are praying for him while he deals with the loss of his father.

Councilwoman Young thanked Mr. Clark and the staff for bringing forward the presentations. She said she found them to be educational. She shared her condolences with Councilman Spence for his father's passing, as well as Director Bell's.

Councilman Ruffieux thanked the employees for how hard they worked during the storm.

Councilman Brooks said he would bring it up until he was no longer on Council, but it was like a sword sticking in his heart when he thought of the death of the three-year-old baby with no response. It bothered him that the murder of the child as well as the two other individuals had received little to no discussion. "We've got to have a conversation with the younger people. The things we talk about, we need it for the city to go forward, but the city can't go forward without our children. Most schools have a student body and if we pick a student from each of those bodies and let them tell us what their problems are and what we can do to keep them here. We can give each one of them \$100 each. I was going to the schools until the pandemic. It takes a collective effort of the whole council. I don't know many young people in high school who couldn't use \$100 a month." He addressed his fight to keep prayer before the Council and trying to get pastors of churches involved. "That's how you start bringing things together. Let them pray over the Council. That was the initial intent and now it's blown all out." He gave his condolences to Councilman Spence and Director Bell. He said his mother passed when he was 13 and it was a pain that never went away. He said if we continue to love each other as ourselves, love someone as we want to be loved, that creates unity. He said he was so bothered by the death of the child because he did not see the same response as he did when Andrew Brown was killed. "That baby's life mattered." He prayed that we would continue supporting the Boys and Girls Club. He prayed for the City government. He prayed that we would stop attacking each other and start attacking the problems. "It's like salt being poured into a wound. We can sound intelligent, but let's go to the root of the problem. Some of these young people are brilliant if you give them a chance to shine. How many are dying from opioid use, from murdering each other?"

Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked Mr. Morgan weren't closed session items supposed to be transparent? Mr. Morgan said no, closed sessions were only for certain items and generally those items stayed closed. Mayor Pro Tem Walton said we had three people who didn't even want to run for office next year. He said he didn't even want to come to this meeting because he was so humiliated in the last meeting. They'd changed the agenda last time and added a closed session where they could do whatever they wanted. He said that's not the way the charter was intended. "It's happening in Washington D.C., it's happening in Elizabeth City. There's a separation of power. You have legislative, executive and judicial. When you put those three working on something that's not right, they can do anything. We have a process of selecting somebody that's already paid for and we close that out and we still end up having the same problem? We're going to have to pay for somebody to come in and clean this up. We don't want to be transparent. People want to get up and leave because they don't want to hear it. They know it's true. We do it because we can get away with it. If you do the right thing, you wouldn't mind talking about it. Mayor, I really respect you. Mr. Spence, you were not here last meeting and I give you my condolences. I got up and left last meeting because they are not going to hold me hostage to something I don't want to be a part of. And they're going to sit there and say unanimous because Walton walked out. I'm not going to be part of a bank robbery and I don't know you're robbing it. People don't want to be transparent. The four-three rule, that's what they want. No, make it fair. Make it four-four. If it doesn't go our way, we get up and leave. That's what I did and that's what they did. I got up because I can live with my conscious when I am sure of what I have done and I know why I did it. I'm going to do it again if they come in here and try to change the whole agenda. I'll do it again if they do it again and change the whole agenda because they've got the four-three vote." He addressed Councilman Brooks' point about establishing a youth council and said we tried it with young kids and we let it die.

Mayor Parker gave a COVID-19 update from the Albemarle Regional Health Services, which relayed that we are seeing record-high numbers at this time. Vaccines are preventing severe illness and we should continue to protect ourselves the best we can. The flu is also beginning to be prevalent in the area. Current recommendations for boosters are Pfizer or Moderna should get it after five months and Johnson&Johnson after two months. Children 12-17 can only receive Pfizer as a booster. COVID-19 tests are available by appointment at curbside screening clinics at health departments across the state. She mentioned that River City CDC had sent an email about the point-in-time count on January 27<sup>th</sup> which would be conducted with the help of local law enforcement for the homeless population. In addition to the count, they would be dropping off non-perishable food items. If anyone was interested in helping with the count, they should reach out to River City CDC. Lastly, she noted that on January 10<sup>th</sup>, she reported that the search for a new city manager was progressing; however, during that evening's closed session, the council decided to stop the search and move in a different direction.

#### **9. Adjournment:**

Having no other business to discuss, Mayor Parker asked if she could get a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Kem Spence, seconded by Councilman Billy Caudle. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Brooks, Walton, Young and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

