

**City Council Regular Session
May 23, 2022**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in regular session on Monday, May 23, 2022 in Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Bettie Parker
Councilman Kem Spence
Councilman Chris Ruffieux
Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Walton
Councilwoman Jeannie Young
Councilman Darius Horton
Councilman Billy Caudle

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Michael Brooks

OTHERS PRESENT: Interim City Manager Richard Hicks
Chief of Police Larry James
Assistant Finance Director Alicia Steward
Human Resources Director Montique McClary
Fire Chief Chris Carver
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. The invocation was given by Councilman Kem Spence, after which everyone joined for the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:

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

Councilman Caudle asked to move item 7E from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda, where it would become item 8A. Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked to remove the appointment of Andy Montero to the TDA, item 8B on the Regular Agenda, from the agenda in its entirety. Councilwoman Young asked if these items should be voted upon separately. Councilman Ruffieux questioned the reasoning for why Mayor Pro Tem Walton wanted to Mr. Montero's appointment. Mayor Pro Tem Walton replied that he wanted to perform further investigation and have it looked into more closely, as he didn't believe Mr. Montero was eligible to continue to serve. Councilwoman Young asked for clarity. "We're removing 7E from Consent and putting it on the Regular Agenda, and then removing 8B entirely?" She said she felt that we should vote on those separately. Attorney Morgan agreed and asked that they vote to remove 8B, the appointment of Andy Montero first.

Motion was made by Councilman Darius Horton to approve the agenda with the removal of 8B, the appointment of Andy Montero. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Walton. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton and Horton. Against: Ruffieux, Caudle and Young. 3-3 Tie. Mayor voted in the affirmative to approve the removal. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the agenda as amended, and with the additional movement of item 7E from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda by Councilman Darius Horton, seconded by Councilman Billy Caudle. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Walton, Young, Horton 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. 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 in-person speaker present.

Hezekiah Brown – 106 Terrilynn Way, Elizabeth City, NC – Mr. Brown said he still believed that Elizabeth City could be one of the best cities in the country. He moved here 19 years ago, and had previously worked in New York as a mediator, arbitrator and trainer. He became involved in the community and was appointed to the CRC by Mayor Foster, which was part of his initiation to the city. The committee did a lot of great things for bringing people together and building bridges between the races. He also went into the schools and worked with the youth on conflict resolution and psychological violence. Tonight, he was present to talk about Juneteenth as it means a lot to the country, an it’s part of American history. It’s now a national holiday, and a multi-cultural event that brings people together. He stated that he come to appeal to the Council because they have not committed any funds to Juneteenth, and they’d fallen short of what they requested when they went to the TDA. He hoped there was something the City could do to help them.

4. Consent Agenda:

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

- a. **Consideration – Accept Final Bid for 618A Parsonage Street;**
- b. **Consideration – Approval of Capital Project Ordinance for Providence Road Bridge Replacement Project;**

**ORDINANCE # 2022-05-01
 PROVIDENCE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
 CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, the governing board of the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the following Capital Project Ordinance is hereby adopted:

Section 1: The capital project herein authorized (“Project”) is for the replacement of the Providence Road Bridge, to be financed with North Carolina Department of Transportation Fund, Golden Leaf Funds and local funds.

Section 2: The officers of this unit of local government are hereby directed to proceed with the Project within the terms of this ordinance, project documents and the budget contained herein.

Section 3: The following amounts are appropriated for the Project:

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| | Providence Road Bridge Replacement (54-5700-7314) | |
| \$1,472,850 | | |
| | Professional Services (Engineering) (54-5700-0400) | |
| 221,000 | | |
| | Contracted Services (54-5700-4500) | |
| 361,032 | | |

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| | Total |
| \$2,054,882 | |
| Section 4: The following revenues are anticipated to complete the Project: | |
| | Payment from NC DOT (54-3500-5800) |
| \$1,760,000 | |
| | Golden Leaf Grant (54-3490-6700) |
| 250,000 | |
| | Payment from General Fund |
| 44,882 | |
| | Total |
| \$2,054,882 | |

Section 5: The City’s Finance Officer is hereby directed to maintain with the Capital Project Fund sufficient, specifically detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the funding agencies, the funding agreements and state and local regulations.

Section 6: Funds may be advanced from the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the funding agencies in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 7: The City’s Finance Officer is directed to report, on a quarterly basis, on the financial status of each project element in Section 3 above and on the total revenues received or claimed.

Section 8: The Budget Officer is directed to include a detailed analysis of past and future costs and revenues on the project in every budget submission made to the Council.

Section 9: Copies of the Capital Project Ordinance shall be furnished by the City Clerk to the City Council, and to the Budget Officer and Finance Officer for direction in carrying out the project.

ADOPTED, this the 23rd day of May, 2022.

Bettie J. Parker
Mayor

April D. Onley, NCCMC
City Clerk

c. Consideration – Approval of Budget Amendment to Close Out Raw Water Transmission Project;

BUDGET AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022:

Section 1: That the Water and Sewer Fund Public Utilities Water Treatment Transfer to Water Transmission Project Account (31-8100-9102) be increased by \$67,594.34.

That the Water and Sewer Fund Public Utilities Retained Earnings Appropriated Revenue Account (31-3990-0000) be increased by \$67,594.34.

That the Water Transmission Project Raw Water Transmission Project Account (36-9012-7300) be increased by \$67,594.34.

That the Water Transmission Project Transfer from Water and Sewer Fund Revenue Account (36-3970-0000) be increased by \$67,594.34.

Section 2: This budget transfer is to cover the final costs of the Water Transmission Project and the City Council does hereby approve the closeout of the project budget.

Section 3: The following revenues were received to complete this project:

| | BUDGET | ACTUAL |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| NC-DEQ Grant 17-I-2960 | \$903,581.00 | \$879,514.35 |
| NC-DEQ Grant 13-I-3068 | 166,855.55 | 166,855.55 |
| Fund Balance Appropriated | 56,365.25 | |
| Transfer from Water & Sewer | | 67,594.32 |
| Total | \$1,126,801.80 | \$1,113,964.22 |

Section 4: The following expenditures were expended for the project:

| | BUDGET | ACTUAL |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital Expenditure Improvements | \$1,043,335.00 | |
| \$1,113,964.22 | | |
| Contingency | 84,466.80 | |
| Total | \$1,126,801.80 | \$1,113,964.22 |

ADOPTED, this the 23rd day of May, 2022.

Bettie J. Parker
Mayor

ATTEST:

April Onley, NCCMC
City Clerk

d. Consideration – Approval of Budget Amendment to Close Out Water Asset and Inventory Project;

BUDGET AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022:

Section 1: That the Water and Sewer Fund Public Utilities Water Non-Departmental Transfer to Water Asset Inventory Project Account (31-6600-9203) be increased by \$6,544.00

That the Water and Sewer Fund Public Utilities Retained Earnings Appropriated Revenue Account (31-3990-0000) be increased by \$6,544.00.

That the Water Asset Inventory Project Due from W&S Revenue Account (37-1300-3300) be Increased by \$6,544.00

That the Water Asset Inventory Project Professional Services Account (37-8280-0400) be increased by \$6,544.00

Section 2: This budget transfer is to cover the final costs of the Water Asset Inventory Project and the City Council does hereby approve the closeout of the project budget.

Section 3: The following revenues were received to complete this project:

| | BUDGET | ACTUAL |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| NC-DEQ Water Asset Inventory & Inventory Grant (AIA) | \$150,000 | \$121,742 |
| Transfer from Water & Sewer | 9,750 | 6,544 |
| Total | \$159,750 | \$128,286 |

Section 4: The following expenditures were expended for the project:

| | BUDGET | ACTUAL |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Supplies | \$ 21,850 | \$ 0 |
| Equipment | 137,900 | 128,286 |

Total

\$159,750

\$128,286

ADOPTED, this the 23rd day of May, 2022.

Bettie J. Parker
Mayor

ATTEST:

April Onley, NCCMC
City Clerk

- e. Consideration – FY 2022-2023 Health Insurance Rates** *(Removed from Consent Agenda and Placed on Regular Agenda During Agenda Adjustments);*

(End of Consent Agenda)

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

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

5. Regular Agenda:

- a. Consideration – FY 2022-2023 Health Insurance Rates** *(Removed from Consent Agenda and Placed on Regular Agenda During Adjustments);*

Mayor Parker recognized Interim Manager Hicks for his comments. Mr. Hicks provided copies of the insurance quotes to the Council. He said there is an 8.5% increase in our insurance and we have several large claims at this time. The recommendation at this time is to keep the Cigna insurance through the Robert Taylor Group. Through the package, they have authorized \$40,000 in wellness funds. This past year, we used those funds for an employee health fair and provided gift cards to those who attended, downloaded apps and got their proper checkups.

Ken with the Robert Taylor Group reiterated that the main points were that the City was currently with Cigna after moving over from Blue Cross and Blue Shield the prior year. His group had negotiated a \$40,000 wellness program with Cigna, which would still be in place for this year. There is also a \$25,000 credit on the premium if the City renews for 2023, which equates to about 1%, so that would bring our increase down to 7.5% instead of 8.5%. There are no plan changes for current employees or retirees.

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

b. Consideration – Re-Appointment of Andy Montero to TDA (By Motion and Roll Call Vote) *(Removed from Agenda During Agenda Adjustments);*

c. Consideration – Approve Land Donation from Boys and Girls Club;

Parks and Recreation Director Clark advised that the Boys and Girls Club has reached out to the City to offer their land located at 121 Ranch Drive to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Rec Board recommended that the City accept the land for future use, but the City Council must also agree to the donation. The property is 4.28 acres and valued at \$35,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked Director Clark if there was anything already planned that this property could be used for. Director Clark replied there was no plan at this time, so our responsibility for now would just be maintaining the land until we got community feedback. Mayor Pro Tem Walton opined that if someone's giving you something and it's not a hazard, we should probably accept it. Director Clark agreed that it would be an asset.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Walton, seconded by Councilwoman Jeannie Young to accept the property donation.

Councilman Caudle asked Attorney Morgan if there were any restrictive covenants on the land. Mr. Morgan said there were for the adjoining property, but not this one that he was aware of. Councilman Caudle asked if we wanted to sell, would it be problematic? Mr. Morgan said he had not yet seen the deed, but he didn't imagine there would be an issue.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Walton, Young, Horton and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.

d. Discussion – Award of Bid for Employee Health Clinic;

Councilman Spence suggested that this item be tabled until the new Council came on board. Councilwoman Young said she disagreed because she felt it was time sensitive and the current Council still had a job to do. She praised Chesapeake Regional for the job they've done so far and she wanted to keep them if possible. Councilman Horton said he'd had a bad experience with Chesapeake and had been denied his appointment due to some errors on their part and had been treated very poorly. He noted that he would not vote for them personally, but it was ultimately what the employees wanted and he would certainly go along with the will of the employees.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked if Mr. Hicks could give a survey to the employees to ask them how they felt about the current health clinic providers and what they wanted because they're the ones who really use the service. Manager Hicks confirmed that he would do that and provide the results back to the Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Kem Spence to have Interim Manager Hicks conduct a survey of the employees to determine how best to move forward with selecting the provider for the Employee Health Clinic. The motion was seconded by Councilman Darius Horton. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Walton, Horton and Caudle. Against: Young. Motion carried.

e. Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing and Accept the Certification for Sufficiency of the Petition for Voluntary Annexation for Two Farms, Inc.

Community Development Director Long advised that a petition for voluntary annexation had been received from Ward and Smith P.A. as a representative of Two Farms, Inc. for a property located on the north side of Halstead Boulevard Extension, which does not currently have an address. A title search from the City Attorney and certification by the City Clerk as to the sufficiency of petition for the annexation has occurred, and tonight's request is to call for a public hearing on the request.

Motion was made by Councilman Billy Caudle, seconded by Councilman Darius Horton to accept the certification of sufficiency of petition for annexation and call for a public hearing to be held on June 13, 2022 during the Regular Session of the City Council. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Walton, Young, Horton and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #2022-05-02
ACCEPT CERTIFICATION FOR SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION
AND ADOPT RESOLUTION FIXING DATE PUBLIC HEARING ON
ANNEXATION PETITION
A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G. S. 160A-31
TWO FARMS, INC.
57.40 ACRES**

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on April 25, 2021 by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

WHEREAS, certification by the City Clerk as to the sufficiency of said petition has been made;

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

Section 1: That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at the Municipal Administration Building in the City Council Chambers at 7:00 PM on the 13th day of June 2022.

Section 2: The area proposed for annexation is described as follows

COMMENCING at North Carolina Grid-NAD '83 "Tanglewood Control Monument 3" (N: 936716.2635', E: 2797655.1499'); thence N 75° 51' 14" E 1196.49 feet to a calculated point on the northern right of way line of Halstead Blvd. Ext. N.C. Highway No. 344, the POINT OF BEGINNING; running thence from the beginning along the northern right of way line of Halstead Blvd. Ext., N 79° 19' 12" E 551.91 feet to a calculated point; thence continuing along the northern right of way line of Halstead Blvd. Ext. along a curve to the left having a radius of 5845.18 feet, a chord bearing and distance of N 76° 15' 48" E 623.37 feet and a tangent of 312.13 feet to a calculated point; thence continuing along the northern right of way line of Halstead Blvd. Ext. N 73° 11' 58" E 219.18 feet to an existing rebar; thence leaving the northern right of way line of Halstead Blvd. Ext. and running N 16° 48' 41" W 77.48 feet to an existing rebar; thence along a curve to the right having a radius of 750.00 feet, a chord bearing and distance of N 4° 07' 42" W 329.34 feet and a tangent of 168.79 feet to an existing rebar; thence N 8° 33' 18" E 192.26 feet to an existing rebar; thence along a curve to the left having a radius of 700.00 feet, a chord bearing and distance of N 22° 20' 33" W 718.91 feet and a tangent of 418.90 feet to an existing rebar; thence N 53° 14' 24" W 195.30 feet to an existing rebar; thence along a curve to the right having a radius of 424.10 feet, a chord bearing and distance of N 36° 55' 34" W 238.26 feet and a tangent of 124.13 feet to a calculated point; thence S 72° 21' 05" W 310.22 feet to a calculated point; thence along a curve to the left having a radius of 170.00 feet, a chord bearing and distance of S 75° 46' 10" W 20.27 feet and a tangent of 10.15 feet to a calculated point; thence S 79° 11' 16" W 344.24 feet to a calculated point; thence along a curve to the left having a radius of 855.81 feet, a chord bearing and distance of N 66° 28' 06" W 579.99 feet and a tangent of 308.23 feet to a calculated point; thence S 10° 40' 32" E 380.02 feet to an existing rebar; thence continuing S 10° 40' 32" E 1556.37 feet to a calculated point; thence S 55° 40' 40" E 70.71 feet to the POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING, containing 57.40 acres, as shown on a survey titled "Boundary Survey for

Tanglewood Development LLC., Mount Hermon Township, Pasquotank County, North Carolina" dated November 10, 2008, prepared by Paul J. Toti Land Surveying and recorded in Map Book 57, Page 38, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Pasquotank County.

Section 3: Notice of said public hearing shall be published in the Daily Advance, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Elizabeth City, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the said public hearing.

Bettie J. Parker
Mayor

April Onley, NCCMC
City Clerk

f. Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing for CASE NO: RZ 01-22;

Director Long advised that Case Number RZ 01-22 filed by Ward and Smith, P.A. as a representative of Two Farms, Inc. was a request call for a public hearing to rezone two parcels, one 37-acres and one 57-acres from Residential R-6 and Residential R-15 to General Business. She explained that this request was directly related to the annexation request she just presented. Neither of the parcels currently have addresses as they are large plots of farmland at this time. Before the official rezoning takes place, these properties will be annexed into the city. She noted that both this item and the annexation item have been presented to the Planning Commission. No comments or inquiries were received from the public during the Planning Commission meeting and the Commission recommended approval.

Motion was made by Councilman Kem Spence, seconded by Councilman Billy Caudle to call for a public hearing on RZ 01-22 to be held on June 13, 2022 during the City Council's Regular Session. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Walton, Young, Horton and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.

6. Manager's Comments / Comments and Inquiries on Non-Agenda Items:

Interim Manager Hicks noted he would likely be inviting the new board to the June 6th meeting to catch them up to date on the budget. He pointed out that they couldn't take action, but he wanted to give them an opportunity to listen in. He advised that our final tax numbers are in, and to bring in exactly what we've budgeted, the tax rate will be at 59 cents, which is down from 74 cents. The final insurance bill, property liability and workers comp also came in, and he'd be looking into that within the next day or so. He said that staff and the consultant are working as quickly as possible on the audit. Bank statements have all been finalized through the end of April, and he anticipated that those should be caught up in the next few weeks.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton said as you come closer to completing the budget, if you come across things that are different, we need to be informed. If there's a change, let us know why and what made the difference. He said that would help things to be very clear for him. He asked if we were keeping all the same positions? Mr. Hicks replied that we were.

Councilman Caudle asked if we would be starting the Enterprise Funds presentation next. Mr. Hicks confirmed that we would, and that he'd be giving an overview on the General Fund updates as well. Councilman Caudle asked if any rate changes were being proposed. Mr. Hicks said there were not. Councilman Caudle said he felt the

new Council would mostly be concerned with adjusting the General Fund. "If they can get up to speed on the General Fund, then when they're seated, they should be pretty well off with the process." He realized we're working with a quicker timeframe, but felt that they should be able to get through it if we invite them to the early sessions. He praised Mr. Hicks for thinking of including them ahead of time.

Mayor Parker said she wanted to make sure that everyone was okay with then coming in before they were seated. She noted that the new Councilors would not be allowed to vote, they'd just be present to receive information. Councilman Ruffieux said it made sense to have them here, but he wasn't sure what the protocol was on them asking questions. Mayor Parker said she wasn't certain about that either Councilman Caudle said he agreed that since that could be a gray area, maybe they should just be there to listen. Councilman Horton concurred that the seated Council is still the elected body for the time being. Councilwoman Young said she thought it was a great idea, but she did not personally have problems with them asking questions if they had them. "The budget process takes a minute to learn. We need them to be able to understand the budget and get a grasp on it. Maybe we could have a way that they could ask some at the very end."

Councilman Horton asked if the budget was supposed to be passed by July 1st. He asked what a temporary budget? Mr. Hicks explained that a temporary budget is called an interim budget, but it had to be based on something. He said his goal was to have the full budget approved before July 1st. Councilman Horton asked if the new councilors were to come, according to procedure, would we be in violation if we let them ask questions? Attorney Morgan opined that it was such a unique situation, he didn't believe we'd be in any sort of violation, especially if everyone was under the same belief that it was okay. Councilman Horton thought maybe they could all write their questions down at the end. "We don't want to go forever in that meeting either and some will be brand new."

Councilman Caudle agreed that they definitely should be invited, but since they aren't seated, couldn't we have a pre-budget workshop with them? He said he felt that would be a good option since there would be no quorum issues.

Mayor Parker said her issue with that was that they hadn't been certified yet and they couldn't take official action until that time. Councilman Caudle said they wouldn't be taking official action, just a small group discussion. He asked if Mr. Hicks would be agreeable with that. Mr. Hicks said he felt that would be fine. Mayor Parker said they could still be invited on the 6th for just a listening session and then they could possibly have their own other meeting.

Councilman Spence reminded Mr. Hicks about the TDA and asked for additional information on that item regarding the appointment of Andy Montero. He commended Chief Larry James for personally walking around and recruiting during the Potato Festival every single night, along with Chief Carver. He said that's part of being a public servant and he was glad to see that. He also noted that Fire Inspector Brooks was there and he engaged with the public and it was great to see our leaders take time to participate with the youth.

Councilman Caudle had no further comments.

Councilman Ruffieux had no further comments.

Councilman Horton congratulated those who had been elected and those who had served and served well and with passion. "All of us love Elizabeth City and have served with a pure conscience and heart. Life is short, you never know." He noted that COVID is still on the rise, so please be proactive with trying to stay safe.

Councilwoman Young had no further comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton said he'd learned through the process on this Council. He said he didn't know a lot of things but he tried hard to learn what he could. He thanked the supporters who gave him another opportunity to become wiser and try to do better than he'd done the last few times. "We've accomplished a bit while on Council

and hopefully the next group will take up the baton and accomplish even more.” He told Mr. Hicks that he wasn’t praising him, but he knew the answer to what an interim budget was, so he was definitely on top of things. He told him to keep doing what he was doing. He said everyone was a great worker, but they can do it better, just like Council did a good job but they could do better. “If we practice the right things, we’ll get the right results.”

Mayor Parker mentioned COVID being alive and well. “There are constant mutations and there probably will be for a long while, but thanks to our herd immunity, which we are close to, the illnesses are not quite as severe. However, no one wants to be sick and if we can avoid it, then that’s what we should do and we should help others be safe as well.” She commended Chief James on the citizen forum that was held at the Fire Station, saying that it went well and was very controlled. She commended the Interim Manager, as well as Kellen Long, the Fire Chief and everyone else who attended. She said it was something we should have been doing for a long time and was glad to see that we’re starting now. She noted that Military Appreciation Month takes place every year throughout the month of May and we take time to honor our veterans and their commitment to our country. She thanked all veterans and current service members on behalf of the City. She said the Potato Festival was well planned and a great event that had been missed the past few years because of the pandemic. She thanked Debbie Malenfant and her partners for such well-planned event. She congratulated those councilors who were remaining on Council. She noted that the new Council would not be seated until after June 15th. She mentioned an email that came through from Emma Tate on Friday afternoon, which stated that the certifications must be held until after state canvassing on June 9th, to issue on the 15th unless there was a pending protest. She said she’d worked with many of the City’s employees and we had dedicated employees that even if we didn’t have a manager in place for a few weeks, the City would still run because our employees were so fantastic.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked if we could support Juneteenth the same way we supported the Potato Festival. He asked that staff look into a way to do that.

Mr. Hicks said he forgot to mention that our officers had a major arrest over the weekend, someone who was responsible for a lot of problems that we were having. Councilman Spence said he was aware of that happening, and had heard they were extremely discreet about the arrest and did a great job all around.

Councilman Horton noted the speaker from earlier, Mr. Brown, who was asking for financial resources for Juneteenth. He asked if the Council were planning on making a request to TDA for that funding. Mr. Hicks said that could be added to the next agenda if it was the Council’s pleasure.

7. Adjournment:

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

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Bettie J. Parker
Mayor

April Onley, NCCMC
City Clerk

