

**City Council Regular Session  
October 25, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in regular session on Monday, October 25, 2021 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 Billy Caudle  
Councilman Michael Brooks  
Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Walton  
Councilman Kem Spence  
Councilwoman Jeannie Young  
Councilman Chris Ruffieux  
Councilman Darius Horton

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Interim City Manager Ralph Clark  
City Attorney Bill Morgan  
Interim Finance Director Alicia Steward  
Deputy Chief of Police James Avens  
Electric Superintendent Jason Value  
Human Resources Director Montique McClary  
Public Utilities Director Dwan Bell  
Fire Chief Chris Carver  
Community Development Director Kellen Long  
ECDI Director Debbie Malenfant  
Parks and Recreation Director Sean Clark  
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 Bettie Parker at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Parker delivered the invocation, and asked everyone to join for the Pledge of Allegiance. She welcomed Interim City Manager Ralph Clark to his first regular session.

**1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:**

Mayor Parker asked the Council's pleasure on the presented agenda.

Councilman Brooks requested a discussion on Robert's Rules of Order and the Boys and Girls Club be added to the agenda. Councilman Caudle asked that the discussion on the manager's hiring process from the work session be added to the regular agenda.

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

**Those voting in favor of moving the closed session to the top of the meeting were: Ruffieux, Brooks, Young and Caudle. Against: Spence and Walton. Motion fails for lack of supermajority.**

**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. Presentations:**

**a. Employee Retirement – Chief Eddie Buffaloe;**

***PROCLAMATION HONORING  
CHIEF EDDIE BUFFALOË, JR.***

**WHEREAS**, on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, Eddie Manford Buffaloe, Jr. was appointed as Chief of the City of Elizabeth City's Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, during his nearly nine-year tenure with the City of Elizabeth City, Chief Buffaloe also served at the helm as Interim City Manager from August 2020 to January 2021, and was promoted to Public Safety Director in May 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Buffaloe led the Elizabeth City Police Department ever forward in its "pursuit of excellence", strengthening partnerships with other law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, as well as increasing outreach with business and community partners; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Buffaloe successfully expanded Elizabeth City's Community Policing efforts, helping us become a "Project Safe Neighborhoods" city, which allowed us to acquire funding and resources for the advancement of public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, he implemented the agency's first body-worn camera program, which ensured transparency, accountability and professionalism in service to our community, while also enhancing and broadening the training curriculum among members to include diversity and impartial policing; and

**WHEREAS**, he pursued and acquired grants resulting in more than \$1 million received on behalf of the Elizabeth City Police Department, which led to the betterment of the agency and the quality of service provided to our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Buffaloe was integral in the acquisition of the new physical location for the Public Safety Administration Building, which is a facility conducive to modern-day law enforcement needs for service and professionalism to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, he continuously fought to expand the workforce in order for Elizabeth City to meet growing challenges and provide adequate service to our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, under his command, order and peace have been maintained during numerous difficult situations, including the 2015 Westboro protests, as well as the officer-involved shooting in the jurisdiction in 2021, which resulted in 101 days of consecutive police presence; and

**WHEREAS**, with over 30 years of experience in law enforcement, Chief Buffaloe has proved himself an inspiring, charismatic and remarkable leader. We are all the better for having served with him in our various capacities and better still for having known him.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bettie J. Parker, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor and on behalf of the entire City Council and all our citizens, do hereby tender to Chief Eddie Buffaloe, Jr. on this, the **25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021**, this proclamation of public recognition, extending to him our deep appreciation and utmost gratitude for his distinguished service.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

#### **4. Comments from the Public:**

Mayor Parker inquired of the Clerk if there were any persons present who wished to make a public comment. Upon the Clerk's reply that there was one, Mayor Parker asked that they be called to the podium.

**Keith Rivers – 104 Grandview Drive, Elizabeth City, NC** – Mr. Rivers asked where the City's fund balance is at this time. He opined that "everything needs to be out there for the public if it's dropping like that." He questioned if we have the water capacity to handle Sentara's new hospital. He asked if we have the water capacity to handle growth at ECSU.

“All we want to talk about is speed bumps and not the high-ticket items. The state of our city is not good. You all need to research it and put it out there. Give it to The Daily Advance so they can put it out there. We’re not growing. Good people and good companies don’t want to come there. No reflection on the new city manager, but he’s only going to work four days? That doesn’t make any sense.”

## **5. Public Hearings:**

### **a. Hold a Public Hearing – Proposed Redistricting Plans Based on Adopted Guiding Principles;**

Mayor Parker recognized Community Development Director Kellen Long and representatives from Poyner Spruill. Ms. Long gave an overview of the original timeline and the selection of the guiding principles. She said these do not have to be approved tonight, but should be approved by November 8<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Tara Bright of Poyner Spruill went over the adopted guiding principles. She explained that November 8<sup>th</sup> is the adoption date to redefine the wards. Bill Gilkeson of Poyner Spruill added that he did not look at any partisan or election data, nor did he speak with Councilors when drawing the maps. Following the adopted guidelines as far as equal population, all the new wards are now within the +/-5% range. Keeping the core of the districts was adhered to in both maps. Using precincts as building blocks were a consideration in both alternatives, but used more in Alternative B. Ward 2 was set at the low end of the deviation range because of expected growth and Ward 4 was set low because it was believed to be low because of COVID on campus, as ECSU is within that ward. Ward 2 is currently way over-populated and Ward 4 is currently well under-populated, so they needed to be brought into the deviation range. Since they don’t touch each other, all of the wards had to be impacted to correct them. Ms. Bright said when they were drawing the maps, they were aware of the prior litigation in Elizabeth City regarding minority districts. While race is not a predominating factor, it is taken into consideration for the purpose of not diluting it by accident. While pre-clearance is no longer required, they did their best to not disturb current districts. Bill said they were mindful of not unnecessarily splitting African American communities. Alternative A prioritized Wards 2 and 4 at the lowest end of the deviation range.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton wanted to know which streets would be involved in the movement. Mr. Gilkeson said he could show him with an interactive map in a few slides down. Mayor Pro Tem Walton said he also wanted to know which races would be included with the movement. Mr. Gilkeson showed it to him on the screen, but it was difficult to see due to the small size. Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked that someone send it to him electronically. Ms. Bright advised that all of this information was sent to the Council and the public last Wednesday. She said it might take too long if we were trying to zoom in on each individual street one by one on the screen tonight. Mayor Pro Tem Walton said someone could write each street down for him, as he didn’t need to do that job. Ms. Bright said the deadline for the plans was November 17<sup>th</sup> and they’d like to stick with the November 8<sup>th</sup> original selection. She reminded the Council that they could also file an extension until December, if necessary. Mayor Pro Tem Walton questioned when you went north, how many people were included in the movement in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward? Mr. Gilkeson said he would need to get him that info.

Mayor Parker declared the public hearing open and inquired of the Clerk if there were again speakers. Upon the Clerk's reply that there was one, Mayor Parker asked that they be called to the podium.

**Keith Rivers – 104 Grandview Drive, Elizabeth City, NC** - Mr. Rivers explained that he had to receive the maps as president of the NAACP and to ensure that we were all on the same page. Redistricting is not an easy subject to grasp in one or two meetings. The NAACP recommended that we have a work session or an additional meeting. He said a committee was suggested and happened last time, but we are under a different time crunch. He opined that the maps need to be scrutinized. He noted that if the NAACP thinks they need to draw an outside map, they will do so. He told the Council he thought they should have a special "interactive" meeting where they could pull up individual streets one by one and go through slowly so everyone knew what they were voting on.

Having no further speakers, Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton said he thought this was a serious matter and we didn't want to have second judgements later on. As the next meeting was November 8<sup>th</sup>, he said he felt we could call a special work session for that meeting and ask for more public input. Councilman Caudle said he felt there should be a community meeting sooner than the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilwoman Young thanked Poyner Spruill for doing a great job. She stated that she thought the maps were drawn very clearly. She pointed out that "we can't keep waiting and asking and asking the public to come." She agreed with Councilman Caudle's suggestion to have another meeting prior to the November 8<sup>th</sup> date, so they're only concerned with regular business of the Council that day. She didn't want to have to ask for an extension when it came down to it. She said she believed Poyner Spruill did a great job and it was now on the Council to analyze everything. She reminded the Council that this is in a time crunch. She reiterated that the next meeting should be before the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Horton asked Poyner Spruill when the information they referenced was sent to the Council. Ms. Bright said it was sent on Wednesday. Councilman Horton said based on the presentation there wasn't a significant change, but there was still a change. He said during the last redistricting, there were members of the community who came together for discussions. He didn't think it would hurt for the Council to have a special meeting where they could discuss it as an act of transparency, but he also didn't think we needed an extension. Ms. Bright said it would be difficult for them to be on site. She said next Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> would definitely not work as they'd be elsewhere. Councilman Horton asked when they might be available? Did they have their schedule tonight? Ms. Bright suggested calling a work session on the 8<sup>th</sup>, because they would still be within the contract and the City would not have to pay for additional services. Councilman Horton agreed that would be fine, but he'd like to have it somewhere else where the community could come. The Mayor said that probably could be worked out, we'd just have to check with Interim Manager Clark and Parks and Rec.

Councilman Brooks asked which ward saw the most adjustments? Mr. Gilkeson replied that the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward had to be changed the most. Councilman Brooks noted that when we talk about bringing a ward up, we've got to dip into another ward to do so and he understood that. He wanted to make sure those with questions had answers so they could properly inform their constituents. Councilman Caudle said he thought it would be a good idea to schedule a community meeting off-site. "We should go beyond what we've done tonight and advertise a meeting for all stakeholders to come."

**Motion was made by Councilman Billy Caudle made the motion to advertise for four councilors to attend a community session for redistricting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jeannie Young.**

Councilman Horton said he thought that all the Councilors should go. Why not just have a special meeting? Attorney Morgan agreed that if two Councilors from the same ward wanted to go, we needed to announce it as a special meeting. Councilman Horton stated that he believed it should be a special meeting and we should just go with that. He said he thought everyone should be there personally, and requested the motion be amended to call for a special meeting.

**Councilman Billy Caudle and Councilwoman Jeannie Young accepted the friendly amendment to call for a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Senior Center on November 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Mr. Rivers said he was glad the Council was holding an extra meeting, but what if something was wrong with the maps? He said we need to have as many meetings as we need to have. If we need to have four community meetings, then that's what we need to do.

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

**b. Hold a Public Hearing – Sub-Recipient Agreement for Legal Aid of NC;**

Mayor Parker recognized ECDI Director Debbie Malenfant for her comments. Ms. Malenfant advised that Legal Aid of NC provided free legal aid for low and moderate income individuals. They are interested in moving into the offices at Hugh Cale Center formerly occupied by the Albemarle Hospital Foundation. Staff is recommending approval of the sub-recipient agreement for them to do so.

Mayor Parker declared the public hearing open and inquired of the Clerk if there were persons present who wished to speak. The Clerk advised that Mr. Williams, the regional manager of Legal Aid was present if the Council had any questions for him. Mr. Williams explained to the Council that their goal was to put two attorneys and a paralegal in the center to provide resources for the citizens of Elizabeth City. He said that when they have a presence in a city, it increases the number of people who seek out their services. They used to have an office in Elizabeth City about 30 years ago, but closed due to budgetary reasons. Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked what type of cases they dealt with. Mr. Williams said domestic violence and housing were their largest, but also consumer cases, such as

bankruptcy or provider negligence or public benefit cases. He said domestic violence and housing were their largest percentages by far. The family cases were the hardest because they had the highest anxiety with the clients, so those could be hard in that they are very difficult as far as the client's emotions. In terms of legal difficulty, bankruptcy or some types of consumer cases could be difficult, but it varied.

There being no other speakers, Mayor Parker declared the hearing closed.

**Motion to approve the sub-recipient agreed with Legal Aid of NC was made by Councilman Kem Spence, seconded by Councilman Darius Horton. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Brooks, Walton, Young, Horton and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**c. Hold a Public Hearing – Speed Bump Installation for Main Street and Church Street;**

Interim Manager Clark advised that during the earlier work session, the Council had heard information on the proposed speed bumps and this public hearing was for the purpose of making a final decision based on that information.

Mayor Parker declared the public hearing open and inquired of the Clerk if there were persons present who wished to speak. Upon the Clerk's reply that there were several, the Mayor asked that they be recognized in the order of their sign-in.

**Ken Weaver – 809 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** - Expressed support for the speed bumps, saying they were very needed. Mr. Weaver said he believed every ward had the same problems and these could be used as a pilot program to kick off better safety in our neighborhoods.

**Kelly Boyd - 313 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – Ms. Boyd said she fully supported the installation of the speed bumps. Thanked the Council for getting to the point of the public hearing, as she was a member of the Crime Watch group. She stated that the speed bumps would slow down speeders, but would also deter the noisy drivers with straight pipes.

**Larry Crossitt – 1013 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – Stated that he was the individual who initiated the fight for installing speed bumps. He said that he believed that neighborhood safety and quality of life was important and our city had a lot of walkers. He urged the Council to meet with him about having speed bumps installed in other wards because he wanted to lead the charge. He asked the Council to begin thinking about how our entryways into the City looked because “two pawn shops signs leading to a strip club is not a good look.”

**Ricky Boyd – 313 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – Mr. Boyd stated that Roanoke Avenue, Herrington Road and River Road were all race tracks now. He said he felt that we're lucky we don't have people getting hit all the time on our highways. He asked that Main Street and Church Street be used as a testing ground, and then move on to other streets. He added that he did not feel it was fair that the public speakers were made to stand outside in the cold while they waited to speak.

**MaryAnn Jordan – 505 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – Said she was present at the urging of neighbors and friends, as she supported the idea of reducing speed through whatever devices necessary. Echoed Mr. Boyd's sentiments that it was unfair that the speakers needed to wait outside prior to being called inside.

**Matthew Schelly – 504 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – Mr. Schelly provided his examples of speeding on Main Street, including the instance of a car hitting the house he owns on the corner of Persse and Main Streets. He noted that a car also hit his daughter's parked car on Main Street and tore her side mirror off. He pointed out that not all cars speed and his examples are extreme, but he estimated that for every 1,000 cars probably 100 are speeding, which is ridiculous. He said he understood that the speed bumps were meant to be temporary and asked that the Council begin thinking about the permanent solution sooner rather than later. He added that he thought the speed humps behind Enfield would be advisable as a permanent solution and provided the Council with data on those guidelines. He suggested the Council direct the police department to continue with their additional patrolling of the area for speeders and conduct an additional community meeting to gather input.

**Saara Laukkala - 616 West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – *(Emailed Comment and Included in Full)* – "I am writing to you to express support for speed bumps to be installed on W. Main Street and W. Church Street. Speed bumps accompanied with other speed-reducing measures would improve the safety of the historic district and make the neighborhood more pleasant for tourists, pedestrians, and residents."

**Amber Jenot – West Main Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – *(Emailed Comment and Included in Full)* "I am unable to attend tonight's public forum but was told I could send in an email. My family and I reside on Main Street. Routinely we see cars going at rates of speed dangerous for a highway much less a residential street. We street park and walking my two year-old to and from the car each day is frightening. We love living downtown and being walking distance to the things we like to do but the speeding can make it uncomfortable and dangerous for us and others to enjoy walking the streets of our own neighborhood. The addition of speed bumps would be a nice start to making downtown Elizabeth City walking friendly and in general safer for residents and visitors."

Having no further comments, Mayor Parker closed the public hearing.

**Motion was made by Councilman Chris Ruffieux to add speed bumps at 1009 West Church Street and 912 West Church Street, with warning signs installed ahead of the speed bumps; and additional speed bumps installed at 311, 605, 809, and 1006 West Main Street, with installation on both sides of the street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kem Spence. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Brooks, Walton, Young, Horton and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

Councilman Horton addressed the speakers who mentioned they were standing outside while waiting to come in for comments. He asked the mayor if we could accommodate them in some way in the future, particularly if the weather was poor. Mayor Parker said she didn't have a problem with them coming into the downstairs lounge area. Manager Clark noted that it's going to get colder soon and he'll figure out some way to get them accommodated.

**d. Hold a Public Hearing – Rezoning for Coastal Beverage Company – RZ 02-21;**

Mayor Parker recognized Director Long for her comments. Ms. Long explained that the Council would be following through with the public hearing tonight, but taking no action until the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, at which time the annexation item would be heard.

Mayor Parker declared the public hearing open and inquired of the Clerk if there were any speakers. Upon the Clerk's reply that there were none, Mayor Parker closed the hearing.

As recommended by Director Long and Attorney Morgan, the Council took no action.

**6. Consent Agenda: (Interim City Manager Recommends Approval)**

Mayor Parker asked that the Interim City Manager read the items on the Consent Agenda into the record.

**a. Consideration – Authorize Live Burn for 1201-1207 North Road Street;**

**b. Consideration – Declare 109\* Glade Street as Surplus;**

**Resolution # 2021 –10-03  
Declaring Real Property Surplus  
and Authorizing Sale by Upset Bid Process**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elizabeth City is the owner of real property identified on the Pasquotank County Registry as PIN: 891420810272 and Map 34-G-9 and having a physical address of 109 Glade Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elizabeth City has no current or future need for the property; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has authorized an opening bid of \$1,200 received from Sharyla Gibbs on behalf of One Chase Construction Company, LLC via email correspondence; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has authorized notice to be published to solicit bids for the sale of the property, pursuant to the upset bid process as outline in NCGS §160A-269.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the parcel of property identified on the Pasquotank County Registry as PIN: 891420810272 and Map 34-G-9, located at 109 Glade Street is hereby declared surplus to the needs of the City of Elizabeth City; and

**FURTHER**, the City Clerk shall be authorized to begin the upset bid process as required by North Carolina General Statute §160A-269, with an opening bid of \$1,200.

**ADOPTED**, this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

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Bettie J. Parker

Mayor

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April Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

**c. Consideration – Declare 111 Glade Street as Surplus;**

**Resolution # 2021 –10-04  
Declaring Real Property Surplus  
and Authorizing Sale by Upset Bid Process**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elizabeth City is the owner of real property identified on the Pasquotank County Registry as PIN: 891420810223 and Map 34-G-10 and having a physical address of 111 Glade Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elizabeth City has no current or future need for the property;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has authorized an opening bid of \$1,225 received from Sharyla Gibbs on behalf of One Chase Construction Company, LLC via email correspondence; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has authorized notice to be published to solicit bids for the sale of the property, pursuant to the upset bid process as outline in NCGS §160A-269.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the parcel of property identified on the Pasquotank County Registry as PIN: 891420810223 and Map 34-G-10, located at 111 Glade Street is hereby declared surplus to the needs of the City of Elizabeth City; and

**FURTHER**, the City Clerk shall be authorized to begin the upset bid process as required by North Carolina General Statute §160A-269, with an opening bid of \$1,225.

**ADOPTED**, this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

**d. Consideration – Accept Final Bid for 1104 Wood Street;**

**e. Consideration - Letter of Support for ECSU-NCSU Collaboration for NC Sea Grant Coastal Resilience Team Competition application;**

f. Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing – Voluntary Annexation for Coastal Beverage 888 Forest Park Road;

**RESOLUTION #2021-10-05  
ACCEPT CERTIFICATION FOR SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION  
AND ADOPT RESOLUTION FIXING DATE PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNEXATION  
PETITION  
A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G. S. 160A-31  
COASTAL BEVERAGE COMPANY  
2.25 ACRES**

**WHEREAS**, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition has been received on October 11, 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 at the Municipal Administration Building in the City Council Chambers at 7:00 PM on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.

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

Being a portion of a tract of land located in Mount Hermon Township, Pasquotank County, State of North Carolina, being all of the parcels of land conveyed to Coastal Beverage Company recorded in the Pasquotank County Register of Deed Book 1193 and Page 495, said parcels of land being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe found at a northwestern corner of Coastal Beverage Company recorded in Deed Book 1193 at Page 495 and Map Book 57 at Page 23 and on the southern right of way line of Forest Park Road (60-foot public right of

way). Said iron pip is the Principal Place of Beginning for this description.

Thence North  $16^{\circ}02' 21''$  East a distance of 24.93' to an iron rod found;

Thence running along the southern margin of an Access Easement as recorded in plat book 57 at page 23, the following 3 courses:

With a curve turning to the right with an arc length of 17.62', a radius of 47.00', a cord bearing of North  $84^{\circ}35' 42''$  East, a chord length of 17.52', to an iron rod found;

Thence with a reverse curve turning to the left with an arc length of 163.78', a radius of 321.00', a cord bearing of North  $80^{\circ}43' 14''$  East, a chord length of 162.01', to a PK nail found;

Thence North  $66^{\circ}06'14''$  East a distance of 252.88' to an iron rod found;

Thence along the western line of McMor Development LLC, as recorded in deed book 896 page 630, South  $49^{\circ}00' 05''$  East a distance of 507.38' to an iron rod found;

Thence turning and running along the northern margin of Norfolk and Southern railroad right of way, South  $65^{\circ}17' 58''$  West a distance of 282.37' to a computed point;

Thence along the former line that was abandoned as recorded in Map book 57 page 23 for Coastal Beverage, North  $30^{\circ}54' 08''$  West a distance of 453.63' to a computed point;

Thence with a curve turning to the left with an arc length of 157.29', a radius of 965.00', a chord bearing of South  $70^{\circ}43' 59''$  West, a chord length of 157.11' to a computed point;

Thence South  $66^{\circ}03' 56''$  West a distance of 157.56' to a computed point;

Thence North  $35^{\circ}26' 30''$  West a distance of 28.50' to an iron pipe found. Said iron pipe found is the Principal Place of Beginning fix this description.

Having an area of 98,161 sq. ft. of 2.253 Acres more or less.

**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.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

**(End of Consent Agenda)**

Mayor Parker asked Council's pleasure on the Consent Agenda, as presented.

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

**7. Regular Agenda:**

**a. Any item Pulled from the Consent Agenda**

There were no items pulled from the Consent Agenda.

**b. Discussion – Robert's Rules of Order (As Added by Councilman Brooks During Agenda Adjustments and Approval);**

Councilman Brooks asked that this item be pulled off, as he determined he did not wish to discuss it at this time.

**c. Discussion – Boys and Girls Club (As Added by Councilman Brooks During Agenda Adjustments and Approval);**

Mayor Parker recognized Councilman Brooks for his comments. Councilman Brooks reminded the Council that during the last meeting, there was discussion about the City being given the National Guard Armory and he had asked for the verbiage. Attorney Morgan said he had not forgotten about the request, but he had not received the verbiage just yet. He said that he was under the impression that then-Acting City Manager Buffaloe was supposed to get it for him, but he would get it for him as soon as possible. Councilman Brooks stated that he wanted to make sure that the Boys and Girls Club had an opportunity to go into that facility if possible. He felt it was important that we do something like this because the Boys and Girls Club was an avenue to reach our children before they point a gun at each other. One of the speakers tonight named several areas and said there's a lot of speeding, but there's also a lot of violent crime. He said he felt that the Boys and Girls Club can help curtail a lot of that. He pointed out that it was his passion to help ease the violence. "When Andrew Brown happened, media groups showed up here and rightfully so, because Black lives do matter. We get press releases of violent crimes so often that my phone is constantly getting notifications of them coming through." He said it was frequent in the third ward, people shooting each other, stabbing, malicious wounding, murdering and it was sad. A lot of it was happening in the Black community. "If we believe that Black lives matter, and they do, we should be concerned with them executing each other as we are with law enforcement executing each other. We lose two Black men at a time, one to the jail yard and one to the grave yard. We have to do better."

Councilman Brooks continued that he was tired of seeing yellow tape every day and he had to go way out of the way because of shootings or stabbings. "Black lives do matter. Let's not only talk about it when it comes to law enforcement, but Black lives matter also when we are executing each other. We are losing our kids. This isn't the first time I brought it up. We're losing our kids through violence and opioid use and everything else. The police can't

stop these things. You have to go to the root of the problem. When we take a gallon of information and try to drive 100 miles off a gallon, it's not working. I hope I haven't gone off on a rabbit trail because this is bothering me. When you get in the neighborhoods and you hear shooting ... you don't have to be a target, you just have to be driving past. I'm tired of seeing parents put their children away over and over again. It's almost like it's becoming the norm. We're having a civil war on Council and this is happening. We have to do better. All this vision that we have doesn't mean anything if we don't have youth. It's almost time to run for re-election. The young people should get involved. They're really smart. We have a wealth of young people that are smart. Instead of bringing our city forward, they're killing each other." He noted that these things have been weighing on him for 32 years. "I got on Council because I was dealing with this since 1992 trying to clean up the Shepard Street and Sawyertown area. We have to start the healing process and get our children in the right direction; part of that is putting the Boys and Girls Club back in that area."

He requested that Mr. Morgan get the verbiage for the National Guard Armory and send it to him at his earliest convenience because he felt that would be a good move for the Boys and Girls Club. Manager Clark concurred with Councilman Brooks, and said the youth are the leaders of the community and we had to help them.

**d. Discussion – Manager's Hiring Process (As Added by Councilman Caudle During Agenda Adjustments and Approval as a Work Session Carryover);**

Manager Clark advised for those who weren't at work session that he'd spoken to Dr. Straus of Developmental Associates earlier and he would go through the process again. Due to the fact that former manager Freeman hadn't made it a year, we only had to pay out-of-pocket expenses. We'd expect something by December, an assessment in January and a mid-March on site, on-the-job hire. He said they hadn't gotten as many applicants as they wanted last time and he gave him some recommendations, including ElectriCities, which hadn't been one of his earlier contacts. He also told him that he was a previous manager here and it was one of his favorite places he managed in the past. He knew that we had a hard time recruiting. It's just not a place that everyone wants to go, but we may fail to sell ourselves, but we'll work on that. He asked if they were ready to proceed with Dr. Straus and Developmental Associates; if so, he'd contact them tomorrow and get a timeline together.

**Motion was made by Councilman Kem Spence to move forward with engaging Developmental Associates to begin the process for seeking a new city manager. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jeannie Young.**

Councilwoman Young said she approved of putting them in contact with ElectriCities and was glad he suggested that. Mr. Clark said he thought it was such a huge part of our budget that we needed someone with experience there. He said he typically wouldn't participate but he'd give any help they needed and act as a center point and coordinator if necessary. He noted this process would be like picking a spouse and you wanted someone good you could live with for a long time.

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

**8. Comments and Inquiries on Non-Agenda Items:**

Councilman Spence Director Bell for his speed bump presentation during the work session and said he felt it was very thorough. He advised that Pasquotank County Correctional facility was having a hiring event and invited the community to attend.

Councilman Caudle had no further comments.

Councilman Ruffieux had no further comments.

Councilman Horton had no further comments.

Councilman Brooks said he'd spoken previously about the sidewalk on Walker Avenue where a section was missing and it was now repaired and looked really good, so he wanted to thank staff for that. He thanked the new Code Enforcement officer, Megan Onley for the excellent job she was doing in getting the third ward cleaned up. He said he hoped cleaning up the area would help the crime slow down.

Councilwoman Young had no further comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Walton asked about the proper protocol for the Council wearing masks. Mayor Parker replied that you should have the mask over your mouth and nose according to reports from the CDC. Mayor Pro Tem Walton stated that following procedure was important to him because he didn't want to do everything right and still have other people jeopardizing his health. He read an article on the new ECPC Director, Mr. Berry. He opined that a person becomes wise when they realize they don't know anything. He said he only knows something when he sees a fact. He said he was at homecoming over the weekend and had a nice time, even though a few years ago, a writer for Elizabeth City said it was disgusting. He expressed concern that he couldn't enjoy himself because everyone wanted to ask him why Mr. Freeman got fired. He said the only thing that man did was he didn't say "may I." He asked is spending \$13,000 is worthy of being fired? "He was fired for being Black. I have not gotten over it. You can't talk about Black lives matter. You killed a Black young man."

Mayor Parker provided some information from Albemarle Regional Health Services, which said that the FDA and CDC who had granted authorization for booster doses of Moderna and Johnson and Johnson. ARHS was preparing for expansion of their vaccination campaign and determining who is eligible for boosters. They have plenty of vaccine to meet the demand. They are also waiting for approval of the Pfizer vaccine for children 5-11.

#### **9. Closed Session – As Allowed by NCGS 143-318-11(a)(6) -Personnel**

Mayor Parker asked for a motion to go into closed session.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Walton, seconded by Councilman Darius Horton to enter closed session for personnel at 9:25 p.m. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Ruffieux, Brooks, Walton, Young, Horton and Caudle. Against: None. Motion carried.**

Mayor Parker announced there would be a five-minute recess prior to beginning.

#### **10. Adjournment**

The Council returned from closed session at 10:26 p.m. There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Parker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

Mayor Parker adjourned the meeting at 10:26 p.m.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April D. Onley, NCCMC  
City Clerk

