

**City Council Regular Session
September 11, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in regular session on Monday, September 11, 2017 in Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, N.C.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Joe Peel
Councilwoman Jean Baker (*arrived at 7:25 p.m.*)
Councilman Ray Donnelly
Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer
Councilman Michael Brooks
Councilman Rickey King
Councilman Darius Horton
Councilman Johnnie Walton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilman Tony Stimatz (*Excused*)

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Rich Olson
City Attorney Bill Morgan
Interim Finance Director Evelyn Benton
Police Chief Eddie Buffaloe
Electric Department Superintendent Karl Clow
Interim Human Resources Director Monica Cole
Parks and Recreation Director Dexter Harris
Parks and Recreation Superintendent Darris Sawyer
Fire Chief Larry Mackey
ECDI Director Debbie Malenfant
Interim City Clerk April Onley
Public Utilities Director Joe Pearce
Community Development Director Matt Schelly

The City Council regular session was called to order by Mayor Joe Peel at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Peel welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councilman Horton gave the invocation, after which Mayor Peel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:

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

Motion was made by Councilman Rickey King, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer, to approve the agenda with any necessary adjustments.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer requested that item 9(g) be removed from the Regular Agenda, as it was on the agenda per the request of Councilman Stimatz and he was unable to attend the meeting.

Councilman Walton requested items 8(a) and 8(c) be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda for discussion.

Councilman Brooks asked if the citizens knew about the rules and procedures for the Town Hall meeting. Mayor Peel stated that the topic was an item on the agenda and would be discussed to ensure clarification.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Walton and Donnelly. 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:

Joseph Persico – 406 W. Church Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 – Mr. Persico stated that he was appearing before the Council as the Vice President of the NENC Progressives; and he expressed his gratitude for the vote to urge Pasquotank County to lobby for the removal of the Confederate statute at Courthouse square. He requested an update on the efforts started in support of the Climate Accord.

John Bannow – 106 Tiara Court, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 – Mr. Bannow offered his support in preparing a new Customer Service manual. He asked a series of questions, including how much money does the City currently have in utility deposits?; how much interest does this fund earn?; and, to which emergency operation is the interest donated? He opined that the Customer Service billing department was “poorly managed.” He expressed frustration that the only option for electric service within city limits was through the City of Elizabeth City utilities. He opined that the Customer Service manual needs to be rewritten from the perspective of the customer. He added that he didn’t feel the TASCO call system was beneficial. He stated that he was offended that people are offended by the Confederate statue.

Chrissy Riggs – 114 Whitehurst Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 – Mrs. Riggs stated she was directing her comments to Mayor Peel because he was on the school board. She read from an email regarding a survey that was sent to the students of the NEAAAT school. She advised the Council that she was the parent of a seventh grader and her daughter had received a survey that asked questions about the LGBTQ community, which she did not find appropriate.

Faith Long – 205 East Burgess Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909- Ms. Long stated the Enough is Enough group dedicated hours to fixing the City’s Customer Service problems; however, they are not being paid for their services. She opined that the proposed modifications to the City’s handbook were “silly.”

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. August 14, 2017 (Modified Verbatim Section added per Council’s Request)

Councilman Walton stated that he had not seen the changes made to the minutes and did not feel that he could approve them at this time.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Jean Baker, seconded by Councilman King to approve the minutes of August 14, 2017.

Councilman Horton advised Mayor Peel that there was already a motion on the floor to not approve the minutes at the time that the motion to approve them was made.

Councilwoman Baker withdrew her motion to approve the minutes; and Councilman King agreed to withdraw his second.

Motion was made by Councilman Walton to not approve the minutes of August 14, 2017, seconded by Councilman Horton

Councilman Walton reiterated that his decision to not approve the minutes was based on the fact that he had been unable to review them. He expressed concern that the Council was eager to pass something through that had not been given adequate time for consideration.

Councilman Brooks asked if the approval of the verbatim section could be added to the next meeting’s agenda; and Mayor Peel advised him that it could.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

5. Consent Agenda:

(Note: Items “a” through “i” recommended for approval by the Finance Committee during their meeting of September 7, 2017)

Mayor Peel recognized City Manager Olson to read the items on the Consent Agenda into the record. Mr. Olson recommended approval of all items, as follows:

BEGINNING OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Consideration – Authorization for City staff to submit application to the Tourism Development Authority in the amount of \$5,000 for the Retire Here Senior Recruitment Project; *(Removed from the Consent Agenda and Added to the Regular Agenda by Councilman Walton)*
- b. Consideration – Award Recommendation for Three (3) Single Phase Power Transformers for Upgrades to Perkins Road Substation;
- c. Consideration – Adopt Modified Resolution and Budget Amendment in Preparation to Accept FY 2017-2018 Grant Funding from NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program in the amount of \$15,000; *(Removed from the Consent Agenda and Added to the Regular Agenda by Councilman Walton.)*
- d. Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing as Required by LGC for Financing and Refurbishment of A.P. Midgett Building;
- e. Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing as Required by LGC for Financing of Enfield Skate Park;
- f. Consideration – Approval of Financing for Midgett Building Renovations and Adoption of Attached Resolution;

RESOLUTION# 2017-09-02

Resolution for A.P. Midgett Building Renovations

Funded by Five Year Installment Purchase Financing

WHEREAS, the FY 2017-2018 Budget was approved by the City Council of Elizabeth City during its June 26, 2017 meeting; and

WHEREAS, in that budget, funds were appropriated for renovations to the A. Parker Midgett Municipal Building; and

WHEREAS, the total funding required for the project is \$325,000; and

WHEREAS, of the two banks approached for financing, BB&T Bank offered the best proposal with a fixed rate of 1.85%.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that five-year financing for the A.P. Midgett Building renovations be established with BB&T Bank.

ADOPTED, this the 11th day of September 2017.

Joseph W. Peel

Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

- g. Consideration – Approval of Financing for Enfield Skate Park and Adoption of Attached Resolution;

RESOLUTION# 2017-09-03

**Resolution for Skate Park at Enfield Park
Funded by Five Year Installment Purchase Financing**

WHEREAS, the FY 2017-2018 Budget was approved by the City Council of Elizabeth City during its June 26, 2017 meeting; and

WHEREAS, in that budget, funds were appropriated for a Skate Park to be constructed at Enfield Park; and

WHEREAS, the total funding required for the construction is \$200,000; and

WHEREAS, of the two banks approached for financing, BB&T Bank offered the best proposal with a fixed rate of 1.85%.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that five-year financing for the Skate Park construction be established with BB&T Bank.

ADOPTED, this the 11th day of September 2017

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

- h. Consideration – Approval of Charles Creek Flooding Mitigation Plan Consultants;
- i. Consideration – Approval of Waterfront Master Plan Consultants;

END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

Mayor Peel requested the Council's pleasure regarding the Consent Agenda.

Motion was made by Councilman Rickey King, seconded by Councilman Ray Donnelly, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Walton asked if the least expensive option had been chosen for the Waterfront Master Plan Consultants. City Manager Olson stated that the agreement entered into had been for up to \$32,500; and the only company that replied to the City's RFQ was Moffat & Nichol.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Donnelly and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

6. Regular Agenda:

a. Discussion/Consideration – Approve Resolution Urging Pasquotank County to Lobby for Removal of Confederate Monument.

Mayor Peel recognized City Manager Olson to lead the discussion on this item. Mr. Olson stated that the resolution had been drafted by staff, following the Council's request during the previous meeting. He reminded the Council that under North Carolina General Statute 100-2.1, the County could not remove the statue; however, they could lobby for express written approval by the state legislature. He added that the monument also fell within the Historic Preservation District and would require HPC approval for removal, as well.

Motion was made by Councilman Ray Donnelly, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to approve the resolution urging Pasquotank County to lobby for the removal of the Confederate Monument at Courthouse Square.

Councilman Walton asked for confirmation that the HPC would have to approve removal of the monument. Mr. Olson advised the Councilor that HPC approval was required; and should they deny removal, there must be a minimum of a one-year waiting period before the request could be resubmitted. Councilman Walton asked if the Council could override the HPC authority. Mr. Olson stated that as the HPC was a quasi-judicial body, the Council did not have the authority to do so.

Councilman Walton stated that he found some of the wording within the resolution "pushy" and asked for modification. He requested the consent of the Council to authorize softer verbiage.

An amendment to the motion to accept modifications in the language was accepted by Councilman Donnelly and Councilman King.

Councilman Brooks opined that the problem was that the Confederate flag was a battle flag under which hate groups often marched. He read the Council a document detailing the background information on the Civil War; and noted that only after the defeat of the Confederacy was slavery abolished and the United States reformed as one. He asked why anyone would want a statue with a reminder of a tragedy, as more deaths occurred during this war than any other war. He continued that, in his opinion, the Confederate flag was a sign of oppression, hate and pain. He opined that Confederate soldiers should not be considered "our" dead because they were trying to withdraw from the Union. He stated that he did not want to "erase" history and had no problem with the monuments being relocated to museums. He expressed the importance of all Americans learning "how to look at it through someone else's eyes."

Councilman Walton stated that he did not feel the monuments could give as much joy as they did pain. He said that "slavery was wrong then and slavery is wrong now."

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

Resolution #2017-09-04

We Appeal to the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners as a Sense of Duty to Petition the State for Permission to Remove the Confederate Monument Located on the County Courthouse Grounds from Public Property and Relocate it to a More Appropriate Private Venue

WHEREAS, the continued presence of memorials to the glorification of the actions of the those persons from the Confederate States to overthrow the duly constituted government of the

United States of America is an affront to the principles of liberty and freedom embodied in the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the presence of these memorials on public property continues to symbolize and perpetuate belief and adherence to the policies, principles and goals of the Confederacy which institutionalized acceptance of the supremacy of one race or segment of the population over another; and

WHEREAS, this concept of racial supremacy, in direct contravention of the Constitution of the United States, resulted in active warfare against the United States to maintain the institution of slavery and its abhorrent nature and impacts; and

WHEREAS, there are those who continue to espouse these notions of racial superiority and purity, and have taken the symbols of the Confederacy as their symbols to support, profess and promulgate their belief in violent actions to achieve this racial purity; and

WHEREAS, because of these persons' actions, all Confederate symbols have been inextricably linked with the symbols of other race supremacy movements, most particularly the National Socialist (NAZI) Party; and

WHEREAS, the use of these symbols in conjunction with threats, intimidation and violence is abhorrent to all freedom and peace-loving persons who strive to live in harmony with their fellow mankind; and

WHEREAS, the use of public property to display such symbols is an affront to the sensibilities of those who chose to live in harmony instead of division and gives comfort and support to those who would disrupt this harmony; and

WHEREAS, the monument currently located at the County Courthouse constitutes one of these offensive symbols;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELIZABETH CITY, NC:

1) hereby respectfully urges the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners to take steps to remove said monument to Confederate dead from all publically owned lands; and further

2) suggests it be removed to a place for historical artifacts or a private cemetery; and further

3) suggests the Board of Commissioners petition the State for permission to remove said monument, and further

4) lends its wholehearted support and willingness to work with the County in its application to the State for removal of this monument.

ADOPTED, in open meeting by the City Council of Elizabeth City this 11th day of September, 2017.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Attest:

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

b. Discussion/Consideration – Statement of Town Hall Meeting Purpose, Time, Place and Establish Format;

Mayor Peel advised the Council that a handout was on the podium, which stated the Rules of Procedure for Special Meetings. He stated that under the normal Rules of Procedure, the Council would not be able to respond to public comments; and changing the rules of procedure would require a super majority vote. He listed the following proposed ruled:

- Only three minutes per speaker to allow everyone who wishes to speak a chance to do so. If Council agrees, a speaker may address the City Council for an additional three minutes once all speakers have had an opportunity to speak at least once.
- No campaign speeches. Anyone straying from the stated topic will be stopped.
- No responses from City Council during Public Comment, as stated in the existing Rules of Procedure.
- When all speakers are finished, members of the City Council will be allocated three minutes each to address speaker comments only.

Mayor Peel continued that a place and time must also be established to satisfy proper procedure for Special Meetings.

Councilman Walton asked if any of the additional dates he had supplied had been looked into. City Manager Olson stated that several members of the Council would be attending a conference in Greenville on the 20th; however, the 26th would be open for the Museum of the Albemarle. Councilman Walton asked how many people Arts of the Albemarle could hold; and Mayor Peel advised him that it was roughly 200. Councilman Walton declared that he found that an agreeable number. The Council agreed, and selected Arts of the Albemarle as the venue for the special Town Hall meeting.

Councilman Brooks opined that the rules should be modified to reflect that the Council could respond to a speaker if a Councilor was addressed directly.

City Attorney Morgan advised Councilman Brooks that the Council's Rules of Procedures allowed Councilors to respond to public commenters if they believed that the speaker's comments were nonfactual.

Councilman Brooks asked "where is the line drawn" as far as what constitutes a campaign speech. Mayor Peel responded that only items directly tied to voting would be considered part of campaign speeches.

Councilman Walton expressed the importance of allowing interaction between the Council and the public. City Manager Olson stated that its Rules of Procedure bound the Council unless a super majority vote decided that the rules be suspended. Councilman Walton stated that he would like the purpose of the meeting be "to obtain citizen input on management of City services and other issues" for clarity. He opined that "clarity is what we want."

City Attorney Morgan stated that since this meeting was a special-called meeting, the Council was limited to what it could do during the meeting. He expressed concern about adding the phrase "other issues." He opined that the purpose, as stated, would cover almost any topic.

Councilman Brooks stated that he felt the Council was "tying the hands" of the citizens with the current rules; and the citizens were being "boxed in, tightly."

Mayor Peel asked if Councilman Brooks would agree with changing the purpose of the meeting to "to obtain citizens input and questions on City services" to make it broader. Councilman Brooks concurred. Councilman Walton asked that a provision be added to allow Council to respond to the public commenter during their speaking time. He noted that some citizens may feel more comfortable speaking with a specific member of the Council or staff.

Councilman Horton asked if the Council had the authority to suspend the rules; and City Attorney Morgan advised him that super-majority vote would allow it.

Motion was made by Councilman Darius Horton to hold the special Town Hall meeting on September 18, 2017, at the Arts of the Albemarle; and that the Rules of Procedure be suspended for the meeting; and that the purpose of the meeting be “to obtain citizen input and questions on management of City Services; and that the time be established as 6:30 p.m.

City Attorney Morgan asked if Councilman Horton wanted to limit the time allowed to each public speaker; and Councilman Horton concurred.

Councilman Walton stated that he felt four minutes would be substantial for including responses from the Council and staff. Mayor Peel asked if the four-minute limit would include the commenter’s question and the City’s response; and Councilman Walton stated that it would.

City Manager Olson clarified that the meeting would be held at the Arts of the Albemarle on September 18, 2017, beginning at 6:30 p.m.; and that the purpose of the meeting would be to obtain citizen input and questions on management of City services; and that each speaker should be limited to four minutes total interaction time.

A roll call vote was held to determine those voting in favor of suspending the Rules of Procedure for the Town Hall meeting. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, and Walton. Against: Donnelly. Motion carried by super majority vote.

c. Discussion/Consideration – Elizabeth City Police Department Firing Range Usage by Outside Agencies;

Mayor Peel recognized City Manager Olson to lead the discussion on this item. Mr. Olson noted that over the last three years, the City Council had authorized City staff to invest more than \$100,000 to improve the firing range at the end of Wellfield Road. He advised the Council that the Finance Committee recommended no fee structure; and only allowing usage of the facility by the City’s partners. He pointed out that MOAs or Interlocal Agreements would need to be in place for outside usage of the range.

Councilman King expressed concern about the City not charging for range usage, particularly in the event that another agency utilize the range and “tear it up.” He questioned how the City intended to recoup the money for such expenses. City Manager Olson stated that he believed those items could be addressed through MOAs or Interlocal Agreements.

City Manager Olson stated that another concern with charging fees was that if the City began charging fees without a separate agreement, the fees are classified as Enterprise Funds; and the sovereign immunity defense is compromised.

Councilman Walton asked if there could be an application process for range usage, which would then be improved by the Council. Mr. Olson noted that any agreement or MOA would have to go to the Council for approval.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Jean Baker, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hummer, to approve the usage of the firing range by outside agencies. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

d. Discussion/Consideration - Customer Service Division Overflow of Incoming Calls and Call Center Service Agreement;

Mayor Peel recognized City Manager Olson to lead the discussion on this matter. Mr. Olson advised the Council that direction was given to staff during the August 28, 2017

meeting to revisit the existing phone system; and give recommendation to the Council for improving it. He stated that the City currently had 12 lines in a trunk system, which often prohibited other departments from calling in or out on particularly busy days. He noted that staff advised removing six lines from the hunt group for other departments; and of the remaining six, three would be managed by Customer Service; and the remaining lines would be forwarded to the call center. He added that staff recommended TASCOCall center to perform these services. He continued that TASCOCall center would allow calls to be answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He advised the Council that the price was estimated, based on the current volume, at \$34,170. Mr. Olson stated that this firm would also be used for the Public Works Department, particularly in the event of a power outage; and the agreement was month-to-month.

Councilman Brooks asked whether the call center would be equipped to answer any questions that may be asked by the callers. Mr. Olson responded that the representative would send an email to Customer Service; and they would be responsible for returning the calls and providing information. Councilman Brooks asked if additional employees were going to be hired to handle the extra phone calls. Mr. Olson advised the Council that two additional part-time employees had been hired to work from 5-8 from Monday to Thursday, specifically for the purpose of returning calls.

Councilwoman Baker asked if TASCOCall center performed these services for any other utility provider. City Manager Olson stated that they did, and gave Durham County as an example.

Mr. Olson stated that the City's current call volume far exceeds the capacity to handle the calls. He added that the current "list" was at 10 rings, which frustrated the customers; however, this would now be lowered to five rings. He opined that even if the department hired five additional reps, the call volume would still be unmanageable.

Councilman Walton asked when the TASCOCall center contract would go into effect and Mr. Olson stated that it would be within 24 hours of approval by the Council. He continued that he considered this to be a "short-term agreement" and the call volume was expected to return to a normal level in several months. He added that, if necessary, all calls could be forwarded to TASCOCall center, which would free up another customer service representative, should walk-ins be particularly heavy.

Motion was made by Councilman Ray Donnelly, seconded by Councilwoman Jean Baker, to adopt and execute the TASCOCall center agreement. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

e. Discussion/Update – Utility Billing

Mayor Peel recognized City Manager Olson to introduce this matter. Mr. Olson provided a handout, which illustrated where each cycle stood in regards to pending disconnections. He advised the Council that the total number of agreements stood at 2,088, with a value of \$1,859,431.69. He stated the average agreement amount was \$890.50, which equated to three months of bills.

Councilman King asked if a business with an agreement would be able to receive an extension. City Manager Olson advised the Council that the procedure for dealing with the disconnection of businesses was much different from the disconnection for residential customers; however, under the City's current agreement policy, they would not be eligible for an extension. He continued that if the City Council wished to change the policy due to current conditions, staff would be able to draft it for review. **Councilman King requested that staff draft the memo for discussion during the next Council meeting.**

Councilman Horton asked if customers were still entitled to get their deposits back. Mr. Olson stated that, as of November, every account reflected a "good" credit rating since the City did not apply penalties. He pointed out that staff had been instructed to look at the credit history six months prior to determine whether the account actually had good

credit. He advised the Councilor that customers that met the guidelines for deposit return still received their deposits back, as usual.

f. Discussion/Consideration – Customer Service Enhancement Options

Mayor Peel recognized City Manager Olson to lead the discussion on this matter. Mr. Olson advised the Council that revision of the Customer Service manual and TASCO system were two enhancements that were underway. Mr. Olson recognized Assistant City Manager Cole to further the conversation. Mrs. Cole stated that through the City's website, links and Channel 11, the citizens had several methods for communicating with staff. She pointed out that social media was not utilized because it would take additional training, as well as result in unneeded exposure. In addition, much of the information is confidential account information, and state law could unintentionally be violated. She continued that the Southgate mall lease was ending during the next month; and no feedback from the new owners had been received as far as renewing the lease. She added that the option of offering a kiosk was being considered. Mrs. Cole continued that a "next-in-line" ticket dispenser was also a low-cost item of interest. She furthered that relocating the accounting staff to expand Customer Service was more of a long-term solution.

Assistant Manager Cole continued that a potential bank draft incentive of \$25 could be offered to encourage customers to sign up for the bank draft program.

Councilman Donnelly stated that keeping the satellite Customer Service office open was "a must." He added that offering a \$25 credit also a good idea. He asked if there was a way to eliminate the credit card fee that the City currently has. City Manager Olson stated that staff could revisit looking into that with credit card providers.

g. Discussion/Consideration - Addition to Council Goals and Objectives – Weatherization Program *(item removed from agenda)*

h. Consideration – Authorization for City staff to submit application to the Tourism Development Authority in the amount of \$5,000 for the Retire Here Senior Recruitment Project *(Item removed from the Consent Agenda and added the Regular Agenda by Councilman Walton.)*

Mayor Peel recognized Councilman Walton to lead the discussion on this matter. Councilman Walton verified that the funding would come from the TDA; and Mr. Olson confirmed that it would. Councilman Walton stated that he thought it "could be a good idea" and until the City returned to "normalcy" it needed income. He stressed the importance of having a good hospital system if the City intended to recruit retirees.

Motion was made by Councilman Rickey King, seconded by Councilman Ray Donnelly, to authorize City staff to submit a TDA application for \$5,000 for the Retire Here campaign. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

i. Consideration – Adopt Modified Resolution and Budget Amendment in Preparation to Accept FY 2017-2018 Grant Funding from NC Governor's Highway Safety Program in the amount of \$15,000;

Mayor Peel recognized Councilman Walton to lead the discussion on this matter. Councilman Walton asked whether the Council had already passed this item. City Manager Olson stated that the Council had approved the item; however, notification had been received from the Governor's Highway Safety Commission that the grant would be changed to a 50/50 match and only approved for purchase of MDTs.

Councilman King asked how many MDTs would the City be receiving; and Police Chief Buffalo advised him that the City would get 12.

Motion was made by Councilman Rickey King, seconded by Councilman Ray Donnelly, to adopt the modified resolution and budget amendment. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

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, 2018:

SECTION I. That the Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant Revenue (103490.5118) be decreased by \$25,875, the General Fund Balance Appropriated (103990.0000) be increased by \$1,375 and the Police Capital Outlay Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant (105100.7409) be increased by \$24,500.

(To record Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant.)

This Amendment will decrease Fund Balance by \$1,375.

ADOPTED, this 11th day of September 2017.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

**Resolution # 2017 – 09- 01
North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program
Local Government Amended Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Elizabeth City Police Department (herein called the “Agency”) has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Elizabeth City (herein called the “Governing Body”) has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Elizabeth City in open meeting in the City of Elizabeth City, this 11th day of September 2017, as follows:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; and

2. That Richard C. Olson, City Manager, is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor's Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$15,000 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying the cost of the project (\$30,000) described in the contract application; and
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$15,000 as required by the project contract; and
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract. If approved, or as may be required by the Governor's Highway Safety Program; and
5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED, in open meeting by the City Council of Elizabeth City this 11th day of September, 2017.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Attest:

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

Mayor Peel advised Councilman Walton that the regular session minutes from August 14, 2017, which were not approved earlier, needed approval and certification in order for the City to apply for a grant. He asked if the Councilor would agree to approve the minutes, minus the verbatim section.

Motion was made by Councilman Darius Horton, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to approve the regular session minutes from August 14, 2017, minus the verbatim section from the Raftelis Presentation. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

7. Comments and Inquiries on Non-Agenda Items:

Councilman Brooks stated that he felt the survey that went out to the children at the NEAAAT school was inappropriate. He added that children at that age are "impressionable" and that he was appalled. He referenced the general that stated that soldiers that fought under the Confederate flag should be tried for treason. He urged everyone to keep people in Texas and Georgia in their prayers. He expressed concern that he wasn't seeing signs and candidates passing out flyers in any of the wards. He stated that "voting is crucial."

Councilman Horton stated that he was "shocked" about the survey that went out at the NEAAAT school. He asked that the City continue to pray, especially for the 4th Ward. He expressed sympathy for the family that recently lost former Councilperson Lena Hill-Lawrence. He asked for clarity on the ECSU grandstand for the homecoming parade. Assistant City Manager Cole stated that there were three events going on on the same

weekend, which had to be balanced out. She noted that ECSU had moved homecoming from its original weekend; and the parade route would go past Waterfront, although the grandstand would not be located there. Councilman Horton asked if staff already knew when homecoming would be when they approved David's Tabernacle for Waterfront Park. Assistant City Manager Cole stated that staff was not aware and no completed application had been filed by ECSU at that time.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer commended all City employees for the "readiness mode" they had been in during the last several weeks. She expressed gratitude for the Assistant City Manager's efforts during a trying time.

Councilman King advised the Council that Saturday, September 16, 2017, a memorial for Lena Hill-Lawrence would be held. Councilman King asked who paid the range master at the firing range. City Manager Olson stated that the range master was Lieutenant Felton; and his presence was required whenever the range was being utilized. Councilman King stated that he felt the outside agencies should pay the range master while they were there, as they were keeping him from his usual duties.

Councilwoman Baker stated that she wanted people to be "wary" and keep an eye on the hurricanes and potential storms in the Atlantic.

Councilman Walton said that there's a big difference between an eighth grader and a sixth grader; and the survey that was given at the NEAAAT school was "very out of place." He added that all teachers should be certified.

Councilman Donnelly stated that many people within the City were hopeful that the Waterfront Master Plan would include a conference center.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk