

**City Council Regular Session
September 25, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2017 in Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Joe Peel
Councilwoman Jean Baker
Councilman Ray Donnelly
Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer
Councilman Tony Stimatz
Councilman Michael Brooks
Councilman Rickey King
Councilman Darius Horton
Councilman Johnnie Walton

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Rich Olson
City Attorney Bill Morgan
Finance Director Suzanne Tungate
Police Chief Eddie Buffaloe
Electric Department Superintendent Karl Clow
Assistant City Manager Angela Cole
Interim Human Resources Director Monica Cole
Parks and Recreation Director Dexter Harris
Fire Chief Larry Mackey
ECDI Director Debbie Malenfant
Public Utilities Director Joe Pearce
Community Development Director Matt Schelly
IT Director Matthew Simpson
Inspections Director Stanley Ward
Interim City Clerk April Onley

The City Council's regular session was called to order by Mayor Joe Peel at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Peel welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Councilman Michael Brooks to give 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 Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to approve the agenda with any necessary adjustments.

Mayor Peel reminded the Council that item 9 and 10 from the Work Session would be moved to the Regular Agenda as items 10 (e) and 10 (f), respectively.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Stimatz, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, 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. Presentations:

a. Alpha Delta Kappa Proclamation

Mayor Peel welcomed Rose Kornegay, President of the local Gamma Iota Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, and asked that she meet him at the podium to receive the proclamation.

Ms. Kornegay thanked the Mayor and members of the City Council for their continued support of the organization.

P R O C L A M A T I O N
Alpha Delta Kappa Month
October 2017

WHEREAS, Alpha Delta Kappa, an International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators, is observing Alpha Delta Kappa Month during the month of October; and

WHEREAS, women in education constitute a great portion of the nation’s working force, and are constantly striving to serve their communities and nation in educational, cultural, and charitable programs leading to harmony, happiness and peace among all people; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Delta Kappa is dedicated to educational excellence, leadership, altruism and world understanding, and recognizes outstanding women educators who are actively engaged in teaching, administration or in some specialized field of the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, the local Gamma Iota Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa is engaged in promoting education and charitable projects and activities, sponsoring scholarships, and furthering and maintaining worthy standards in the field of education on the local and state level.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph W. Peel, Mayor of the City of Elizabeth City, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2017 as "*Alpha Delta Kappa Month*" in Elizabeth City; and I further encourage all citizens to join me in saluting this organization for its fine record of service to our community.

PROCLAIMED, this the 25th day of September 2017.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Attest:

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

b. Recognition of Retiree – Wilma Overton

Mayor Peel welcomed Wilma Overton to join him at the podium; and as she was not in attendance, Assistant City Manager Cole accepted the plaque on her behalf.

4. Comments from the Public:

Paul Riggs, 114 Whitehurst Street, Elizabeth City, NC stated that he was speaking on behalf of himself and candidate Gabriel Adkins. He opined that the City’s billing was “inflexible” and that customers were “scared.” He said that he felt the Customer Service representatives were “doing a good job”, although they were taking a beating.

Jesse Harmon, 702 Parsonage Street, Elizabeth City, NC opined, “We might as well just stop talking about unity because unity is never going to happen.” He stated that vandals had come into his yard and removed the candidate signs posted there. He

continued, "I've had a very bad past ... and I can be a very bad person." He added, "If those threats that have been made to me want to happen, come to my house; I can promise you you will not leave. I can promise you that. You might walk in, but you'll be laying when you leave." He advised the Council that he was not speaking about them, but about the citizens.

Chrissy Riggs, 114 Whitehurst Street, Elizabeth City, NC congratulated Councilman Brooks for becoming a write-in on the ballot.

John Bannow, 106 Tiara Court, Elizabeth City, NC stated that he was representing the Facebook group Enough is Enough. He opined that he had been attending meetings for six months and felt like "things were finally looking up." He stressed the importance of taking care of the customers. He listed several things he thought the City should do, including reducing the late penalty to 1.5%; returning deposits after 12 months of no disconnections; returning deposit interest to individual customers; and getting customers to "round up" their bills;

Sarah Ownley, 108 Cameron Drive, Elizabeth City, NC read a statement from Selma White, small business owner in Elizabeth City, urging the citizens to vote. Ms. Ownley stated that River's Edge and River's Retreat have utility bills for the office that are continuously going to a tenant's address. She added that she felt their accounts had been drafted for \$7,000 over their budget. She pointed out that during the Town Hall meeting, staff declared that the problems were taken care of; however, she did not believe that they were.

Mayor Peel advised the Council that the current time was 7:30 p.m., and the Public Hearings would now commence.

5. Approval of Minutes:

a. City Council Regular Session – August 14, 2017 (Approval of Modified Verbatim Section)

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to approve the minutes. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Stimatz, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

b. City Council Work Session – August 28, 2017

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to approve the minutes. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Stimatz, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda:

(Note: Items "a" through "d" recommended for approval by the Finance Committee during their meeting of September 21, 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 – Authorize Submission of Asset and Inventory Assessment Grant to the NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure for a Potable Water Loss Reduction Project;**

**Resolution # 2017 – 09-07
By the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City
Authorizing the Potable Water Loss Reduction Project**

WHEREAS, Asset Inventory and Assessment Grants were created in Session Law 2015-241 in the changes made to North Carolina General Statute 159G, to broaden the use of grant funds to encourage water and wastewater utilities to become more viable and proactive in the management of their systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City has in excess of 40% water loss between the wells and the point of delivery to the customer; and

WHEREAS, the water loss has increased from approximately 33% to 41% after Hurricane Matthew; and

WHEREAS, the water loss locations have not been identified; and

WHEREAS, the loss of water is a waste of a valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City intends to request Asset and Inventory Assessment Grant assistance for a Water Loss Project for a maximum grant of \$150,000; and

WHEREAS, a grant match of no more than 10% is expected; and

WHEREAS, of this percentage, a maximum of \$2,250 will be required to be paid, and the remained of the match can be achieved by in-kind services in the form of internal asset manager team members' time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Elizabeth City, the Applicant, will complete an intensive water loss reduction assessment to locate current areas of extensive water loss, and to pilot a test system for continual meter-based monitoring of water loss throughout the service area zones; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Joseph W. Peel, the Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Applicant with the State of North Carolina for a grant to aid in the completion of the project described above. The Authorized Official, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate state agency may request in connection with such application or the project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connected with the application. In addition, the Applicant has substantially compiled, or will substantially comply, with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loan pertaining thereto.

Adopted in open session this 25th day of September 2017, by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

- b. Consideration – Authorize staff to apply for the FY 2017 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Program and, if chosen, Authorize a 25% Funding Match;**

- c. **Consideration – Authorize Renewal of Waste Industries Franchise Agreement;**
- d. **Consideration – Engineering Qualifications Based Selections for Public Utilities;**
- e. **Consideration – Request for Approval of Live Fire Training at 1234 North Road Street.**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA.

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

Motion was made by Councilman Rickey King, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Stimatz, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. Motion carried.

7. Public Hearings:

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Peel announced that the Council would direct its attention to the scheduled Public Hearings.

- a. **Hold a Public Hearing for Financing of Enfield Skate Park and Adopt Attached Resolution.**

City Manager Olson advised the Council that \$200,000 had been approved in the FY 2017-2018 budget for construction of a skate park; and that LGC required a public hearing for all real property involved in financing. He stated that the financing agreement was awarded to BB&T, as they provided the lowest interest rate.

Mayor Peel declared the meeting into Public Hearing and inquired of the City Clerk if persons were present who wished to be heard. Upon her reply that no one wished to speak, Mayor Peel declared the Public Hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to authorize the adoption of the attached resolution; and further authorize filing of the application with LGC.

Councilman Stimatz asked City Manager Olson when he expected the project to be completed. Mr. Olson responded that he hoped to have it finished by April 1, 2018. He pointed out that the concern was getting certified minutes compiled in time for the LGC’s November meeting.

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

**Resolution # 2017 – 09-05
“Enfield Skate Park”**

**Authorizing The Filing Of An Application For Approval
Of A Financing Agreement Authorized By North Carolina
General Statute 160A-20**

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina desires to construct an all concrete skate park located at Enfield Park at 601 Corsair Circle for the citizens of Elizabeth City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City desires to finance the project by the use of an installment contract authorized under North Carolina General Statute 160 A, Article 3, Section 20 (b); and

WHEREAS, findings of fact by this governing body must be presented to enable the North Carolina Local Government Commission to make its findings of fact set forth in North Carolina General Statute 159, Article 8, Section 151, prior to approval of the proposed contract;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, meeting in regular session on the 25th day of September 2017, make the following findings of fact:

- 1) The proposed contract is necessary to provide adequate facilities for its employees for services to the citizens and customers of Elizabeth City.
- 2) The proposed contract is preferable to a bond issue for the same purpose because the cost to issue general obligation bonds would be greater.
- 3) The sums to fall due under the contract are adequate and not excessive for the proposed purpose.
- 4) The City of Elizabeth City's debt management procedures and policies are good because policies are carried out in strict compliance with the law and adequate debt management will continue to be provided as directed by the Local Government Commission.
- 5) There will be no tax increase required to raise sums to fall due under the contract.
- 6) The City of Elizabeth City is not in default in any of its debt service obligations.
- 7) The attorney for the City of Elizabeth City has rendered an opinion that the proposed project is authorized by law and is a purpose for which public funds may be expended pursuant to the Constitution and laws of North Carolina.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the City of Elizabeth City in filing an application with the North Carolina Local Government Commission for approval of the project and the proposed financing contract and other actions not inconsistent with this resolution.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this 25th day of September, 2017.

The motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, and passed by a vote of ____ to ____.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

b. Hold a Public Hearing for Financing of A.P. Midgett Building Renovations and Adopt Attached Resolution.

Mayor Peel announced the subject of this Public Hearing and called on City Manager Olson to provide the background. Mr. Olson advised the Council that \$325,000 had been allocated for renovations in the FY 2017-2018 budget; and financing was awarded to BB&T. He added that the LGC requires a public hearing and must approve the project because it deals with real property.

Mayor Peel declared the meeting into Public Hearing and inquired of the City Clerk if persons were present who wished to be heard. Upon her reply that no one wished to speak, Mayor Peel declared the Public Hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to authorize the adoption of the attached resolution; and further authorize filing of the application with LGC.

**Resolution # 2017 – 09-06
“A.P. Midgett Building Refurbishment”
Authorizing The Filing Of An Application For Approval
Of A Financing Agreement Authorized By North Carolina
General Statute 160A-20**

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina desires to refurbish the building located at 302 E. Colonial Avenue for the safety and welfare of its employees and to better serve the citizens of Elizabeth City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elizabeth City desires to finance the project by the use of an installment contract authorized under North Carolina General Statute 160 A, Article 3, Section 20 (b); and

WHEREAS, findings of fact by this governing body must be presented to enable the North Carolina Local Government Commission to make its findings of fact set forth in North Carolina General Statute 159, Article 8, Section 151, prior to approval of the proposed contract;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, meeting in regular session on the 25th day of September 2017, make the following findings of fact:

- 1) The proposed contract is necessary to provide adequate facilities for its employees for services to the citizens and customers of Elizabeth City.
- 2) The proposed contract is preferable to a bond issue for the same purpose because the cost to issue general obligation bonds would be greater.
- 3) The sums to fall due under the contract are adequate and not excessive for the proposed purpose.
- 4) The City of Elizabeth City's debt management procedures and policies are good because policies are carried out in strict compliance with the law and adequate debt management will continue to be provided as directed by the Local Government Commission.
- 5) There will be no tax increase required to raise sums to fall due under the contract.
- 6) The City of Elizabeth City is not in default in any of its debt service obligations.
- 7) The attorney for the City of Elizabeth City has rendered an opinion that the proposed project is authorized by law and is a purpose for which public funds may be expended pursuant to the Constitution and laws of North Carolina.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the City of Elizabeth City in filing an application with the North Carolina Local Government Commission for approval of the project and the proposed financing contract and other actions not inconsistent with this resolution.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this 25th day of September, 2017.

The motion to adopt this resolution was made by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, and passed by a vote of ____ to ____.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk

7. Regular Agenda:

a. Consideration – Appointment to the Community Relations Commission (By motion and roll call vote);

Mayor Peel introduced the item and called for a motion.

Motion was made by Councilman Rickey King, seconded by Councilman Ray Donnelly, to appoint Dr. Andrea Williams to the Community Relations Commission. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Stimatz, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker, Walton and Donnelly. Against: None. A roll call vote followed, which produced the same results. Motion carried.

b. Consideration/Discussion – System Development Fee Study (Impact Fees);

Mayor Peel recognized City Manager Olson to introduce the matter. Mr. Olson advised the Council that recent legislation approved modifications that would allow the City to charge impact fees; and limit the “look back” period to three years. He stated that the new law would take effect October 1, 2017, and would require the City’s compliance. He listed the four steps of the new law:

1. Develop the Supporting Analysis consistent with General Statute 162A-205;
2. Calculate the fee after applying any applicable credits as set forth in General Statute 162A-207;
3. At least 45 days prior to consideration of the fee analysis, the local government must post the analysis on the local government web site and solicit written comments for consideration by the preparer of the analysis; and
4. After the expiration of the posting period, the governing body must hold a public hearing prior to considering adoption of the analysis and the resulting fee.

Mr. Olson stated that the Supporting Analysis must be conducted by a financial analysis and a licensed engineer; and that the staff recommended Raftelis Financial Consultants. He advised the Council that the cost would not exceed \$23,330. He added that Raftelis was also performing the analysis for Durham and the City of Raleigh.

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Ray Donnelly, to authorize the City Manager to execute the engagement letter with Raftelis for the Elizabeth City System Development Fee Study.

Councilman Stimatz asked about multi-user facilities; and the method for justifying the cost. City Manager Olson stated that it could be looked at a number of ways, including by number of bedrooms or bathrooms. He noted the Capital Improvement Plan would

have to be revised and approved to incorporate the fees. He added that both the capacity at the water and wastewater plant would have to be upgraded.

Councilman Walton asked if the City had ever conducted a study like this before. City Manager Olson stated that staff originally looked at this in 2005 based off of the School of Government's models and terminology. He added that updating the Capital Improvement plan would require a lot of work before being handed over to Raffelis.

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

c. Consideration/Discussion – “Do Not Litter” Signage

Mayor Peel advised the Council that he had requested this item be added to the agenda after comments made by a gentleman attending the Town Hall meeting.

City Manager Olson stated that the City did not have any littering signs that stated the State Statute; however, there were 18 “Don't Be A Litterbug” signs within the City. He noted that the Council might want to consider replacing these with more autocratic signs in the future. He added that most of the signs the City had in place are around parks and public areas; and the cost of putting up new signage is \$45 each. He reminded the Council that these signs cannot be put up on NCDOT right-of-ways without an encroachment agreement.

Councilman Donnelly stated that he personally worried about “sign pollution”, although, he welcomed the more “friendly” signage. He expressed concern that the signs are not working. City Manager Olson stated that the signs are “minimally effective.” He pointed out that sea gulls are as problematic as people; they often enter trash receptacles seeking food and leave a mess behind.

Councilwoman Baker asked if there was a way to determine which roads were the most heavily traveled. City Manager Olson responded that the City's most utilized roads are often NCDOT roads, which the City has no jurisdiction over. Councilman Baker opined that it would be in the City's best interest to establish signs with stronger wording that detailed the potential fine.

Councilman Horton asked how often citizens received citations for litter. Chief Buffalo advised the Councilor that it was at a rate of less than 100 per year. City Manager Olson pointed out that much of the litter problem could be controlled with better enforcement. He added that if the police department began writing more tickets for littering “word will get out.”

Councilman Donnelly stated that attitudes have changed about “picking up after their pets.” He opined that the “Adopt-a-Street” program should receive heavier advertisements; and recommended more promotion instead of signs.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer stated that she supported more enforcement; Councilman King concurred, noting the abundance of trash and shopping baskets located on the corner of Walker Avenue.

Councilman Stimatz offered that community service might be more beneficial than a penalty. City Attorney Morgan advised the Councilor that that would require the court system to change the penalty. Councilman Walton stated that he would support community service, as well.

Councilman Brooks stated that the penalty would “put a heavier burden on the poor.” He opined that the utility bill problems needed to be corrected before penalties were enforced for littering. He continued that homeowners in upscale neighborhoods did not have as much litter as poor neighborhoods did.

Councilwoman Baker stated that “she didn't remember anyone saying that poor people are guilty of littering. It's not poor people.” She continued that “we need to teach people ... that there's a fine, regardless of who they are.”

Councilman Brooks reiterated that upscale neighborhoods did not have the same problems that poor neighborhoods did. He continued, "Ride through the neighborhoods in Elizabeth City that are economically deprived and I promise you will see more litter." He added, "This is fact, what I'm saying."

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer stated that she lived in a middle class neighborhood and still experienced heavy litter.

Chief Buffalo advised the Council of the littering law, as defined in statute 14-399. He stated the first offense was a Class III Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not less than \$250 and no more than \$1,000; and the court may require community service of 8-24 hours. He said if the second offense occurred within three years of the first offense, the fines could be no less than \$500 and no more than \$2,000; and the court may require community service of 16-50 hours. He continued that the court can also assess a point on the license of the violator.

Being no further discussion on the matter, the Council elected to move the agenda forward.

d. Consideration/Discussion – Offering Extensions on Hardship Agreements

City Manager Olson stated that a number of years prior, the City Council put a policy in place during 2005-2006, which gave customers the option of having 5, 5-day extensions on utility bills. He noted that accounts with agreements were not allowed extensions. He advised the Council that most of the current agreements are "hardship agreements" and do not fall under the same guidelines as a "normal" agreement; therefore, he suggested that the Council could differentiate the between the two and allow extensions on the hardship agreements.

Councilman Brooks suggested the City work with people who suffer from unfortunate circumstances, such as job loss. City Manager Olson stated that the hardship agreements were strictly for customers who suffered due to the Edmunds conversion. Councilman Brooks requested that the City look at customer accounts on a "case-by-case basis." He continued that "we need to do all we can do."

Councilman Stimatz added that this was an item that needed to be addressed in the Customer Service manual changes. He stated that "hardship" could be defined as more than just the problems caused by the Edmunds conversion; and the staff should be given latitude in determining what constituted a hardship.

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Rickey King, to allow extensions on hardship agreements, as defined by the City's policy.

Councilman Brooks gave his support for the idea and the motion and reiterated the importance of working with the citizens.

Councilman Walton reminded the Council that "people were on a normal lifestyle ... until the conversion." He stated that allowing an "extension on an adjustment is only prolonging the agony." He added that he would rather pay a lump sum payment than drag the payments out. He chastised the Council for "baby-stepping." He continued that he felt more efforts should be made.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Brooks, Stimatz, Horton, Hummer, King, Baker and Donnelly. Against: Walton. Motion carried.

e. Discussion/Consideration – Customer Service Technological Enhancements and Amendment to City Council 2017-2018 Golas and Objectives (moved to the Regular Agenda from the Work Session for discussion – motion made during Work Session.)

Councilman Stimatz asked for permission to lead the discussion on this item. He advised the Council that he was requesting to add Goal L under Objective 5 in order to approve Customer Service access and processes. He pointed out that “this is not about the billing system, per say. This is about after the bill has been created. It’s looking at that process on how we get you your bill, get you information about your bill, get you information about anything related to your account, and how we get back to you.” He stated he would like to task staff with the effort of securing a subject matter expert to assist with this.

Motion was made by Councilman Stimatz, seconded by Councilman Brooks, to add Objective L under Goal 5 in the Council’s Goals and Objectives; and to task staff with finding a subject matter expert.

Councilman Walton asked how much money the Council intended to put into this venture. City Manager Olson noted that the matter would have to come back before the Council for approval, prior to any agreements or funding was dispersed.

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

Councilman Walton asked why the utility billing update was not on the agenda. City Manager Olson responded that a memo had been distributed to the Council earlier that day; and addressed staff’s concerns about stacking utility bills on top of one another. He added that he had also provided another memo several days prior, indicating how successful the TASCO call center program had been.

Councilman Walton directed City Manager Olson to make sure the problem with River’s Edge and River’s Retreat was rectified by the next meeting.

f. Committee Reports (*Moved from the Work Session Agenda to the Regular Session Agenda*):

EC-PC Economic Development Commission: Mayor Pro Tem Hummer, Councilwoman Baker, Councilman King and Mayor Peel:

Councilwoman Baker stated a new company has come into the City, called Legacy Coach, which “rehab” busses to serve as motorhomes and rentals. She advised the Council that the company is seeking dump truck drivers and diesel mechanics; and anyone interested should submit an application or contact Wayne Harris. She added that several additional companies are interested in Elizabeth City, but detailed information is not available to the public at this time.

Mayor Peel stated that the company was very “high end” and did a lot of work for famous individuals.

Councilman Brooks asked if the company would be paying a desirable salary, as he found that a lot of new jobs within the City did not offer a “livable wage.”

Central Communications Advisory Board: Councilman Brooks

Councilman Brooks had nothing to report.

Fireman’s Relief Fund: Councilman Brooks

Councilman Brooks had nothing to report.

NC Eastern Municipal Power Agency: City Manager Olson and Mayor Peel

Mr. Olson advised the Council that their meeting was scheduled for the following Wednesday, and the “true up” would be addressed.

Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.: Councilman Donnelly

Councilman Donnelly stated Tuesday was the final evening for Music on the Green. He pointed out that the ECDI was partnering with the YMCA to get the Oxena Newsstand “in shape” for the Italian dinner and the Ghostwalk. He commended all parties involved for the improvements on the alleyway.

Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce Board: Mayor Peel

Mayor Peel advised the Council that the Chamber held a ribbon cutting for a new business across from ECSU. He added that College Week was currently underway.

Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Hummer, Councilman Donnelly, Councilman Horton and Mayor Peel

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer noted that items “a” through “d” on the Consent Agenda were approved by the Finance Committee.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Councilman Walton

Councilman Walton stated he had not been able to attend the meeting.

Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Airport Authority: Councilman Stimatz

Councilman Stimatz indicated that the Airport Authority would meet the coming Wednesday. He stated that the helicopter that recently crashed had refueled at the airport, and the fuel had been tested, by protocol. He continued that he was happy to report that there were no problems discovered with the fuel.

Storm Water Advisory Board: Councilman Stimatz, Councilman King and Councilman Brooks

Councilman Stimatz stated that the board would be meeting within the next month or two; and hoped to have a presentation for the Council during the month of October.

Tourism Development Authority: Councilwoman Baker

Councilwoman Baker stated that the TDA would be meeting on Thursday. She added that the Authority was working on updating its website and developing a new logo.

Community Relations Commission: Councilman Brooks

Councilman Brooks stated that he had not been to one of the CRC meetings in a while, as they were often held at the same time as the Council’s work session. He opined that the group should be more visible in their efforts. He added that “this is where my heart is ... bringing people together like that.”

8. Comments and Inquiries on Non-Agenda Items:

Councilman Brooks stated that he had been attending candidate forums in light of the coming election. He stressed the importance of “matching what someone says” with their voting record. He urged the public to read through the minutes. He thanked the Enough is Enough group for not “quietly submitting” when the utility billing problems began. He stated “whether I’m on Council or not on Council, I will never submit.” He promised citizen Sarah Ownley that she would get a response to her previously sent email within the week. He pointed out “our only service as elected officials is to serve the public.”

Councilman Stimatz concurred with Councilman Brooks statements about the public viewing the minutes. He also suggested that they view previously recorded meetings, as they were available online. He mentioned that he attended the CityVision 2017 meeting the prior week and praised the event. He urged the public to take heed of the importance of writing letters to their state representatives.

Councilman Horton asked whether there was still an issue with the mailing address for River’s Retreat and River’s Edge. City Manager Olson stated that the Customer Service

had changed the address multiple times, and there was clearly an error in the system that would be addressed. He noted that both he and staff had attempted to contact the corporate office numerous times. Councilman Horton stated that he did not like to constantly hear that there was an ongoing utility billing issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer mentioned that she had asked for additional spraying for mosquitos. She addressed the lack of jobs and pointed out that “Council can’t bring the jobs ourselves.” She noted that without apprentice programs, many jobs were out of reach.

Councilman King stated that he was passionate about community policing; and asked that during the next work session a 21st Century Policing item be added and presented by Chief Buffaloe.

Councilwoman Baker advised the Council that the annual Ghostwalk would be held on October 13th and 14th. She stated there would be eight sites, and the theme would be colonial times in the Albemarle. She noted this 21st Ghostwalk would be the last that she chaired. She praised the CityVision 2017 conference that she attended in Greenville and the variety of information she gathered there.

Councilman Walton stated “we should honor the past and analyze the present.” He added that the next Council should try to have a unified vision. He thanked Councilman Brooks for “getting back in the race.” He wished everyone running the best of luck.

Councilman Donnelly apologized for not mentioning Island Breeze when he listed some of the City’s fantastic downtown restaurants near the new alleyway; and added that they served delicious Caribbean meals.

Mayor Peel stated that the new Ghost Harbor Brewing Company would be in an historic delivery stable. He also noted that the old Hurdle Hardware building would become a new microbrewery; and called it an “exciting addition” to downtown. He praised ECDI director Debbie Malenfant’s work on revitalizing the area.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

April D. Onley
Interim City Clerk