

Minutes
Kinston City Council
Monday, February 5, 2018
5:30 pm

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Don Hardy called the City Council meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Councilmember Robert Swinson led the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present: Councilmembers Robert Swinson, Sammy Aiken, Joseph Tyson, Kristal Suggs, Mayor Pro Tem Felicia Solomon and Mayor Don Hardy

Also present: Tony Sears, City Manager and James Cauley, City Attorney

Adoption of the Agenda

Councilmember Tyson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and upon a unanimous vote the agenda was adopted.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Marquetta Henderson, 902 Cameron Drive, stated her concern is about the electric bills. She would like for the City to help her understand her bill, usage, cost per kilowatt hour, etc. She is seeking answers and education on how to use the electricity so that it works best for citizens. She wants to be reeducated about the utility bills.

John Nix, 3003 Hillman Road, Acting Advisor for the Lenoir County Teenage Republicans, stated they have members from South Lenoir and North Lenoir High Schools. The group is taking on project for Veterans and they are serving the Lenoir County Veterans Home with a drive. They have a list of snacks that the veterans like. There are boxes at the Piggly Wiggly located on Highway 258 North and the one on Highway 70 East. Over the next six months, individuals can purchase items from the list and put them in the boxes.

John Nix, 3003 Hillman Road, stated he is a concern tax paying resident and a small business owner. There is information circulating about the Woodmen Center. He asked that City Council protect the residents of the City of Kinston from further liability, both legally and monetarily, by not accepting the deal proposed by Woodmen of the World for the Woodmen Center. The center is losing money and trending down and the Woodmen Life organization must honor its contract. Competing with the private sector with taxpayer money was a mistake. We cannot accept this gift from Woodmen Life because it would remain a burden for years to come, otherwise Woodmen Life would not be offering it to us. It is our job to honor our part of the contract and it is theirs to honor their part. Please be good stewards with our tax dollars. Paving roads and providing infrastructure is more important than bailing out a multibillion dollar corporation.

Response to Concerns About Recent Unusually High Utility Bills

Councilmember Swinson stated he has been on Facebook and several people have chosen to go on Facebook to talk about their electric bill. We have asked the Public Services Director and her staff to break down the utilities bill so that citizens can understand them. A pet peeve is when people post their bill amounts but don't explain that the bill is not just electric, but it also includes electric, water, sewer, stormwater, environmental services (garbage, recycling, curbside) and North Carolina sales tax. The City does not have different rates for different parts of the City. The State only allows residential and commercial rates. Citizens have to recognize that in many areas of Kinston there are older homes that are not energy efficient. They may not have enough insulation, energy star appliances, or other things that make the usage go up. The City offers free energy audits. Citizens should call 939-3282 and the City will schedule staff to evaluate the home and advise where the home is losing the energy. The City offers tax credits for new water heaters, etc. In December and January, we had extremely cold temperatures down in the single digits and your furnace and electric ran almost 24/7. It runs and it pulls current. The City will make payment arrangements and currently we are not disconnecting services. We are working with residents to help facilitate the bills to get them manageable.

Rhonda Barwick, Public Services Director, stated all of the City's electric rates are posted on the website, except large demand commercial rates, at www.kinstonpublicservices.com. The residential energy charge is around \$13.40 plus the kilowatt hour charge of approximately .117 cent. The City reads the meter and calculates the charges. There were 10-12 evenings that the temperatures were in the single digits. Even if you put your thermostat on 68, your system is still fighting the outside temperature of 10 or 20 degrees, and is running constantly. In the summer and winter we see a rise in utility bills due to the heating and cooling. Staff will work with customers on payment extensions. Due to the extreme temperatures, we have relaxed the qualifications for payment extensions. We ask that customers call if they have received a higher than normal bill. Sharron Dempsey, Operations Manager and Soni Walker, Customer Service Supervisor, are available this evening for anyone who needs to make payment arrangements. The energy audits are available at no cost to customers and we provide a free written report of the findings. We also have the energy efficiency credit program.

Councilmember Swinson stated not only was it the City of Kinston but other power suppliers had high bills because of the extreme cold temperatures. When bills are posted on social media, people think it is just electric, but that is not accurate because the bill includes electric, water, sewer, stormwater and environmental service fees. If citizens have an older home, please call 939.3282 and request an energy audit. Renters should have a conversation with landlords and show them the energy audit documentation.

Councilmember Aiken stated a couple of renters had pipes frozen and burst, and the landlord wanted them to pay the plumber. In the future, he will introduce the idea of a landlord tenant association such as Greenville and Fayetteville. We had 589 houses that were dilapidated and we are tearing some of the houses down, but the landlords should be responsible for their property. As far as relief, the Salvation Army and ICOR help with rent and utility bills.

Councilmember Swinson stated there are two programs that Social Services offer for assistance as well.

MINUTES

Consider approval of the minutes of the Kinston City Council Joint Meeting with the Lenoir County Commissioners held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 and the Kinston City Council meeting held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.....Monique Hicks

Councilmember Tyson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson and upon a unanimous vote the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Economic Development Strategic Plan.....Penny Whiteheart, Consultant Creative Economic Development Consulting

Rhonda Barwick, Public Services Director, stated this is program that started prior to the seating of our current City Council. The City of Kinston, along with ten other cities, was selected to receive an Economic Development Strategic Plan review through Electricities at no charge. Ms. Whiteheart is a senior consultant with Creative Consulting, and she has been working with the City since early summer 2017. She has held meetings with a steering committee. She followed up with interviews with community leaders. She had a public meeting at the library as well as put a survey online to find out information from the community about what they thought were the strengths and weaknesses and what we could be done to encourage economy development.

Penny Whiteheart, Consultant, stated this is a program where Electricities invests in economic development planning for its member communities. We looked at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. You all have unique assets to build on like the Neuse River and the Global TransPark. The opportunities have to do with investments and how to leverage the investments. Outdoor recreation is becoming a new point for economic development. We conducted a survey and new jobs, diversifying job base and raising wages were consistent and at the top of the list. As far as what investments need to be made, the top item was infrastructure. In the goals and strategies that we recommend are focused on how to beef up job creation activities. Economic and demographic background was another analysis. We developed five strategies and goals for Kinston: New Jobs and Investments, Economic Diversification, Solidify Kinston’s image as an Arts and Culture Community, Marketing and Communications, and Leverage Visitors to Kinston. She displayed a draft of a three year implementation schedule.

Councilmember Aiken stated one of our assets is the mall. Ms. Whiteheart stated you have to look beyond retail. Services, community colleges or universities have taken over space in malls. Retail is changing and doesn’t take as much real estate. You should talk to investors to find out where they have interest.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Consider approval of a Special Events Permit for Get Your Rear in Gear 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, March 24, 2018.....Alonzo Jaynes

Alonzo Jaynes, Police Chief, stated this is a special events permit for a 5k run/walk. This event was planned to raise money for colon cancer research and awareness. The race will start on Carolina Avenue, the Park Rangers will lead the race and the residents and businesses that will be affected have been notified. Bailey Blake is a senior at Kinston High School and is the Event Director. It is commendable to have our young people pushing such a worthy cause.

Bailey Blake stated she is a senior at Kinston High School and in the IB program and it has to do with CAS which stands for Creativity, Action and Service. She thought doing a 5k would be fun and she lost her grandfather to colon cancer. Colon cancer is the third most diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death in men and women. Upon graduation she will attend Averett University in Danville, Virginia and she will sign Wednesday to play football.

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon stated Bailey and other IB students visited Rochelle Middle School to recruit students for the IB program. The students gave them more respect and a great level of engagement. They did a prenominal job selling the program. She was very pleased to see such strong leadership.

Councilmember Suggs made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson and upon a unanimous vote the special events permit was approved.

2. Consider acceptance of the initial bid of \$875 for 613 East Washington Avenue and authorize the City Attorney to advertise to start the upset bid process....Adam Short

Adam Short, Planning Director, stated the Planning staff has received a bid to purchase this parcel. The bid was submitted by Kinston Teens in the amount of \$875 and secured with a down payment in the full amount of the bid.

Councilmember Swinson confirmed that the City has been maintaining the property.

James Cauley, City Attorney, stated that he has consultant with Councilmember Suggs given her role with the Kinston Teens organization. There are very limited exceptions to the general rule that a Councilperson has to vote. NCGS 160A-75 states in part that “no member shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the consideration of the member’s own financial interest or official conduct” and it goes on to provide exceptions. After consulting with Councilmember Suggs, she does not meet any of the exceptions, and she would be required by statute to vote on this item.

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyson and upon a unanimous vote the initial bid was accepted and the City Attorney was authorized to advertise to start the upset bid process.

3. Consider adoption of a budget Ordinance amendment for the FY 2017-18 Operating BudgetDonna Goodson

Donna Goodson, Finance Director, stated there are several items and the most important ones will be highlighted. Fire and Rescue received a charitable contribution from M & Y Enterprises dba Beauty World for \$300 to purchase safety and uniform supplies. Fire and Rescue applied and was awarded a Firehouse Sub grants in the amount of \$22,284 for two R1 Series inflatable boats and two 25 horsepower pump jets. The City has received final reimbursement from Lenoir County for the Bill Fay tennis courts in the amount of \$15,000. Recreation staff requested funds from the Southern Tennis Association in the amount of \$11,808. The City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$160,000 from the Golden Leaf Foundation to extend Doctors Drive to Airport Road with matches from the City and the developer. There was a pipe break at Well 20 which is in the Water Fund and an insurance claim was filed in the amount of \$7,574 which will go to miscellaneous revenue. The City Council decided to set aside a portion of the 2.9% retail rate decrease to fund future capital improvements for underground electric replacement on Herritage Street. The Public Services department has contracted with Booth and Associates to analyze the electric system along Herritage to evaluate the possibility of placing the lines underground and the cost of the contract is \$21,250.

Councilmember Tyson stated he voted against the project and he thought the money was set aside, but not for Herritage Street. Catherine Gwynn, Budget Administrator, stated the monies are set aside in Capital Reserve in the Electric Fund. It has not been designated for anything specific. Mr. Sears stated none of the money is slated to be spent at this point. Any expenditure would come back to City Council. Given recent events that have happened in other areas, staff will make a presentation at a later date about the future of the project.

Mrs. Goodson continued and stated in the Public Services Fund there is a multi-function device used by Engineering that will be replaced and \$9,550 will be appropriated in Capital Outlay other equipment. Health and Safety along with the City Manager have received a proposal from the Layman Group for a program for concierge healthcare services to employees. The services will be set up by April 1st. Three months of the service will cost \$4,125 and will be appropriated in Fund Balance.

Councilmember Tyson asked if the Layman Group was supposed to come and provide feedback. Mr. Sears stated that he and the Human Resources Director met with the group the first quarter and last week we had a second quarter meeting and once we get the third quarter, it will give us a

better estimate as to what to do. We will talk to the City Council about it during the budget process.

Mrs. Goodson stated in December an air handler and a compressor at the Public Services Complex failed, and it is in need to be replaced. The lowest quote was \$10,470 and it will be appropriated in the appropriate Fund Balance.

Councilmember Tyson introduced the following Ordinance:

2018-02

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL
OPERATING BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the annual operating budget on June 19, 2017 authorizing appropriations for the General Fund, Water Fund, Electric Fund, Public Services Fund, Employee Health & Insurance Fund and the Facilities & Property Management Fund, and

WHEREAS, amendments by the City Council may become necessary during the year as conditions change, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in City Council department in the General fund to reimburse travel expenses for former Mayor BJ Murphy. This will be funded with an appropriation of meetings and travel and miscellaneous revenues, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Fire and Rescue department in the General Fund to purchase safety and uniform supplies. This will be funded by revenues from a charitable donation from M&Y Enterprises, Inc. dba Beauty World, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Fire and Rescue department in the General Fund for the purchase of two inflatable boats and two pump jets to provide equipment for rescue operations. This will be funded from a grant awarded by Firehouse Subs, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Recreation fund in the General Fund to replace the aged Bill Fay Tennis Courts. Appropriated in FY17 this will be funded with a reduction of Fund Balance and with an appropriation of Local/Private Grants, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the General Fund Transfers to General Fund Capital Projects to extend Doctors Drive to Airport Road. This will be funded with a grant awarded from Golden Leaf Foundation, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Water Production fund in the Water Fund to fix cracks in walls and ceiling due to a broken pipe inside the Well #20 building. This will be funded with an appropriation of Service and Maintenance Contracts and Miscellaneous Revenue, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Electric Operations fund in the Electric Fund to have Booth & Associates develop a conversion plan for underground electric line replacement on Heritage Street. This will be funded with an appropriation of funds set aside by the board for future capital improvements, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Public Service Administration fund in the Public Service Fund to replace a multi-function devise used by Engineering. This will be funded with an appropriation of Capital Outlay Other Equipment and Fund Balance, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Health & Safety fund in the Employee Health & Insurance Fund to provide concierge health services to employees from Laymon Group and J. Author Dail. This will be funded with an appropriation of Professional Services – Other and Fund Balance, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Public Service fund in the

Facilities & Property Management Fund to replace an air handler and compressor. This will be funded with an appropriation of Equipment Repair/Maintenance and Fund Balance.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Kinston, North Carolina that the annual operating budget ordinance be amended as follows:

General Fund	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Revenues:			
Local/Private Grants	\$ -	\$ 34,408.00	\$ 34,408.00
County Grants	-	15,000.00	15,000.00
Miscellaneous	35,000.00	35,851.00	851.00
Reimbursement Revenue-Pendegraph Development	-	117,000.00	117,000.00
Appropriated Fund Balance	1,853,474.01	1,869,666.01	16,192.00
Total Other General Fund Revenues	23,396,067.00	23,396,067.00	-
Total Revenues	\$ 25,284,541.01	\$ 25,467,992.01	\$ 183,451.00
Expenditures:			
City Council			
Meeting and Travel	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,851.00	\$ 851.00
Other City Council Expend.	156,900.00	156,900.00	-
Fire & Rescue			
Safety & Uniform Supplies	54,925.00	55,225.00	300.00
Capital Outlay - Other Equipment	35,000.00	57,300.00	22,300.00
Other Fire & Rescue Expend.	3,775,573.00	3,775,573.00	-
Transfers to Other Funds			
Transfers to Special Revenue Fund	5,900.00	165,900.00	160,000.00
Other Transfers to Other Funds Expend.	876,321.00	876,321.00	-
Total Other General Fund Expend.	20,373,922.01	20,373,922.01	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 25,284,541.01	\$ 25,467,992.01	\$ 183,451.00
Water Resources Fund			
Revenues:			
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 12,571.00	\$ 7,571.00
Appropriated Fund Balance	376,221.13	376,221.13	-
Total Other Water Resources Revenues	10,409,579.00	10,409,579.00	-
Total Revenues	\$ 10,790,800.13	\$ 10,798,371.13	\$ 7,571.00
Expenditures:			
Water Production			
Service & Maintenance Contract	\$ 191,700.00	\$ 199,271.00	\$ 7,571.00
Other Water Production Expend.	1,205,684.13	1,205,684.13	-
Total Other Water Resources Fund Expend.	9,393,416.00	9,393,416.00	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 10,790,800.13	\$ 10,798,371.13	\$ 7,571.00
Electric Fund			
Revenues:			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 454,306.71	\$ 475,556.71	\$ 21,250.00
Total Other Electric Revenues	49,199,383.00	49,199,383.00	-
Total Revenues	\$ 49,653,689.71	\$ 49,674,939.71	\$ 21,250.00
Expenditures:			
Electric - Operations			
Distribution Supplies	\$ 685,220.66	\$ 706,470.66	\$ 21,250.00
Total Other Electric Operations Expend.	3,269,016.05	3,269,016.05	-
Total Other Electric Fund Expend.	45,699,453.00	45,699,453.00	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 49,653,689.71	\$ 49,674,939.71	\$ 21,250.00

Public Services Fund	Budget	Budget	(Decrease)
Revenues:			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 245,413.43	\$ 254,963.43	\$ 9,550.00
Total Other Public Services Revenues	2,185,378.00	2,185,378.00	-
Total Revenues	\$ 2,430,791.43	\$ 2,440,341.43	\$ 9,550.00
Expenditures:			
Public Services Administration			
Capital Outlay-Other Equipment	\$ -	\$ 9,550.00	\$ 9,550.00
Total Other Public Services Administration Expend.	785,068.00	785,068.00	-
Total Other Public Services Fund Expend.	1,645,723.43	1,645,723.43	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,430,791.43	\$ 2,440,341.43	\$ 9,550.00
Employee Health & Insurance Fund	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Revenues:			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 2,177.00	\$ 6,302.00	\$ 4,125.00
Total Other Employee Health & Insurance Fund Rev.	688,192.00	688,192.00	-
Total Revenues	\$ 690,369.00	\$ 694,494.00	\$ 4,125.00
Expenditures:			
Health & Safety			
Professional Service - Other	\$ 92,400.00	\$ 96,525.00	\$ 4,125.00
Total Other Health & Safety Expend.	102,583.00	102,583.00	-
Total Other Employee Health & Insurance Fund Expend.	495,386.00	495,386.00	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 690,369.00	\$ 694,494.00	\$ 4,125.00
Facilities & Property Management	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Increase (Decrease)
Revenues:			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 137,400.00	\$ 148,140.00	\$ 10,740.00
Total Other Facilities & Property Mgmt. Rev.	351,800.00	351,800.00	-
Total Revenues	\$ 489,200.00	\$ 499,940.00	\$ 10,740.00
Expenditures:			
Public Service Complex			
Equipment & Repair/Maintenance	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 13,140.00	\$ 10,740.00
Total Othe Public Service Complex Fund Expend.	166,600.00	166,600.00	-
Total Other Fac. & Prop. Mgmt. Fund Expend.	320,200.00	320,200.00	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 489,200.00	\$ 499,940.00	\$ 10,740.00

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and upon a unanimous roll call vote the Ordinance was adopted.

4. Consider adoption of a budget Ordinance amendment for the General Fund Small Projects Special Revenue FundDonna Goodson

Donna Goodson, Finance Director, stated City Council authorized the General Fund Small Projects Special Revenue Fund to account for the construction of the Dragon Park within Pearson Park. It has been amended to add the Neuse River Greenway project. This is to recognize the additional donations of \$100 for the Dragon Park, \$2,440 in donations for the Joel Smith Disc Golf course and \$1,000 for the Emma Webb pool project.

Councilmember Tyson introduced the following Ordinance:

2018-03

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE
GENERAL FUND SMALL PROJECTS FY 2015-FY 2020**

WHEREAS, the City Council established the General Fund Small Projects FY15-FY20 on January 20, 2015 to fund small projects that will extend beyond a single fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, these projects will be funded with various donations and other funding sources as approved for the scope of work the projects entail, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate expenditures for the Project Construction Dragon Park due the receipt of a donation for the purpose indicated by the donor, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate expenditures for the Project Construction Joel Smith Disc Golf Course due the receipt of a donation for the purpose indicated by the donor, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate expenditures for the Project Construction Emma Webb Pool Project due the receipt of a donation for the purpose indicated by the donor, and

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Kinston, North Carolina that the following Capital Project Budget Ordinance is amended as follows:

<u>General Fund Small Projects FY2015-FY2020</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Revenues:			
Donations	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,700	\$ 100
State Funds - PARTF Grant	175,000	175,000	-
Donations- Emma Webb Pool Project	-	1,000	1,000
Donations- Joel Smith Disc Golf Course	-	2,440	2,440
Transfer from General Fund	175,000	175,000	-
Total revenues	<u>\$ 354,600</u>	<u>\$ 358,140</u>	<u>\$ 3,540</u>
Expenditures:			
Construction - Dragon Park	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,700	\$ 100
Construction - Neuse River Greenway	350,000	350,000	-
Construction -Emma Webb Pool Project	-	1,000	1,000
Construction -Smith Disc Golf Course	-	2,440	2,440
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 354,600</u>	<u>\$ 358,140</u>	<u>\$ 3,540</u>

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs and upon a unanimous roll call vote the Ordinance was approved.

5. Consider adoption of a budget Ordinance amendment for the Ballistic Vest Special Revenue Fund.....Donna Goodson

Donna Goodson, Finance Director, stated the Police department has requested an appropriation for 16 vests in the amount of \$11,508.49 from the US Department of Justice which requires a 50/50 local match. The match will be funded with a transfer of \$5,054.25 from the General Fund.

Councilmember Aiken asked the longevity of vests and what is done with old ones? Chief Jaynes stated four to five years and we return the vest to the manufacturer to recycle.

Councilmember Swinson introduced the following Ordinance:

2018-04

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
FOR THE BALLISTIC VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT (BVP) (P9129)**

WHEREAS, the City Council created a special revenue fund on March 5, 2012 to account for the restricted federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice Ballistic Vest Program, and

WHEREAS, the City of Kinston must provide for the safety of its law enforcement officers that watch over the safety of the community and in order to offset the cost of providing necessary personal protective equipment City staff actively seek grant funding sources, and

WHEREAS, the Kinston Department of Public Safety has applied for and been awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FY2017 granting period to purchase 16 ballistic vests, and

WHEREAS, it is agreed the City of Kinston will match the grant with a local match of \$5,754.25 for the purchase of the ballistic vests. The local match will be funded with a split appropriation from Federal Grants BVP Program and Transfer from General Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Kinston, North Carolina that the following special revenue project budget ordinance is amended as follows:

<u>Ballistic Vest Partnership (BVP) Program</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Revenues:			
Federal Grants BVP Program	\$ 36,988.35	\$ 42,742.59	\$ 5,754.24
Transfer From General Fund	<u>36,988.35</u>	<u>42,742.60</u>	<u>5,754.25</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 73,976.70</u>	<u>\$ 85,485.19</u>	<u>\$ 11,508.49</u>
Expenditures:			
Capital Outlay Other Equipment	\$ 73,976.70	\$ 85,485.19	\$ 11,508.49
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 73,976.70</u>	<u>\$ 85,485.19</u>	<u>\$ 11,508.49</u>

Councilmember Tyson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken and upon a unanimous roll call vote the Ordinance was approved.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

There was no City Manager’s report.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

James Cauley, City Attorney, recommended a closed session for land acquisition and litigation.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS
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Mayor Hardy stated that he received an email from the Governor Office regarding an initiative called Hometown Strong. It is about a partnership for local governments to support local economies and improve infrastructure to strengthen our communities. Hopefully we will receive more information and be able to work together on infrastructure throughout our city. The conversation has started and hopefully they will reach back out to us soon.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken and upon a unanimous vote the City Council entered into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(3) and (5) for a litigation update and the possible acquisition of the Woodmen Center, respectively, at 6:39 (6:50) pm.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyson and upon a unanimous vote the City Council returned to open session at 8:16 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Tyson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken and upon a unanimous vote the City Council meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Hicks, City Clerk