

Minutes  
Kinston City Council  
Monday, October 15, 2018  
Work Session Canceled · Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Don Hardy called the City Council meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Ms. Crawford led the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present: Councilmember 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 Suggs made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyson and upon a unanimous vote [5-0] the agenda was adopted.

CITIZEN COMMENT  
Citizens must sign in prior to the start of the meeting if they wish to address the City Council.  
Citizens should state their name and address prior to beginning their comments and may speak up to a maximum of 3 minutes.  
Citizens seeking assistance or asking questions will be contacted by a member of the Governing Body or by appropriate City Staff.

There were no citizens who wished to address the City Council.

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

**1. First Responder Emergency Network..... Calvin Holloway  
AT&T**

Mr. Holloway stated firstnet is a cellular network that was built with first responders in mind. The network gives first responders priority during the time of a disaster. Mr. Holloway stated that first responders and family members will receive discounts. Mr. Holloway stated he would be the City's liaison and that he is available for presentations.

**2. Greene Lamp.....Angela Bates**

Ms. Gwendo, Director of the Foster Grandparent Program for Greene Lamp Community Action, spoke with the Council as Ms. Bates could not attend. Ms. Gwendo stated that Greene Lamp has partnered with North Carolina Works and has been granted \$1.8 million to assist nine counties that have been affected by Hurricane Florence. The grant is to help individuals who have been out of work for over thirteen weeks. Ms. Gwendo stated if the City has jobs pertaining to Hurricane Florence then Greene Lamp is prepared to give free labor at no cost to the City.

**3. Recognition of Sponsors of the new Fire/Life Safety House.....Don Crawford**

Don Crawford, Fire Chief, thanked all staff for their help obtaining the Life Safety House. Captain Barss stated a lot of hard work went into the new house and thanked the community for all the support. Mr. Barss stated the community provided this for the City. Mr. Barss recognized the International Rotary Club, the Safe Kids Carolina Organization, and the Guardian Ad Litem program for making this possible. He stated Bojangles’ and The Boulder Blimp Company will receive their plaques at a later time.

**4. Retirement of Billy Huggins Jr.....Don Crawford**

Don Crawford, Fire Chief, stated Captain Huggins had become a friend over the years. Mr. Crawford stated he had been a teacher and a leader over the years and he never had to worry about Captain Huggins or his company. Mr. Crawford thanked Mr. Huggins for his many years of dedication.

**5. Introduction of Yolanda Thigpen, Community Relations Coordinator.....  
.....Alonzo Jaynes**

Alonzo Jaynes, Police Chief, stated Ms. Thigpen has been outstanding since working with the Police Department. Mr. Jaynes stated she went through a very competitive hiring process. Ms. Thigpen stated that she is very dedicated to the City and looks forward to working with everyone.

MINUTES

**Consider approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting held on October 1, 2018...  
.....Joanna Rose**

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and unanimous vote [5-0] the minutes were approved.

ACTION AGENDA

**1. Consider authorizing the purchase of a 2019 Bucket Truck from Altec Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$245,268 to replace vehicle number 238, a 1999 GMC bucket truck.....Rhonda Barwick**

Rhonda Barwick, Public Services Director, stated the council allocated \$ 250,000 to purchase a bucket truck. Mrs. Barwick stated Altec was the lowest bidder at \$ 245,268.00.

Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson and upon a unanimous vote [5-0] the bid award was approved.

**2. Consider adoption of a Resolution to update the Kinston Bike and Pedestrian Plan.....Adam Short**

Adam Short, Planning Director, stated the Planning Department plans to apply for a grant to update our Bike and Pedestrian Plan. The plan was originally adopted in 2008 and an update in 2012. The purposed update would be a more comprehensive update through this grant process.

Mayor Pro Tem made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs and upon a unanimous vote [5-0] the Resolution was adopted:

**3. Consider approval of a Special Events Permit for a Fall Festival.....Alonzo Jaynes**

Alonzo Jaynes, Police Chief, stated the fall festival will be held October 27, 2018 from 4:30-7:30 pm. Phillips Road will be closed but police will not be needed.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs and upon a unanimous vote [5-0] the special events permit was approved.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

**1. NEA Grant Update.....Marcia Perritt**

Marcia Perritt was not able to attend this Council Meeting and will attend a future meeting.

**2. Departmental Update.....Tatiana Height**

Tatiana Height, Community Development Planner, stated the Planning Department applied to have the River Walk designated as a part of the Mountains to Sea State Trail System. The request was approved in October. Ms. Height stated the department is hoping to get signage to mark the trail.

**3. Intent to Update Minimum Housing Code Update.....Adam Short**

Adam Short, Planning Director, stated the Planning Department and the Inspection Department will be working to update the minimum housing code. Mr. Short reported there has not been a substantial update since 1964.

**4. Departmental Update.....Alonzo Jaynes**

Alonzo Jaynes, Police Chief, stated there had been back and forth shootings in the community. Mr. Jaynes stated it is very upsetting to see individuals working so hard to dismantle what the City has been working so hard to achieve. Mr. Jaynes ensured the Council and the community that the police department is working diligently to resolve the incidents. The department has identified target locations and persons of interest. He stated that a lot of pressure will be put on the individuals. Officers have been working extra time in the areas.

**5. Departmental Update.....Gloria Blake**

Gloria Blake, Human Resources Director, stated there will be two events to raise money for the employee relief fund. The first event will take place at the festival in Person Park, and the City will be selling raffle tickets. The second event will be a spaghetti dinner with the hope to have a small silent auction during the meal.

**CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

The City Attorney had no report.

**MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

The City Council had no report.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Aiken and upon a unanimous vote [5-0] the Council entered closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6); Personnel at 7:49 pm.

Councilmember Suggs made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyson and upon a unanimous vote [5-0] the City Council returned to open session at 8:35 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon made the motion seconded by Councilmember Aiken and upon a unanimous vote [5-0] the City Council meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Rose, Deputy City Clerk