

The Washington City Council met in a regular session on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Mac Hodges, Mayor; Bobby Roberson, Mayor Pro tem; Doug Mercer, Councilman; William Pitt, Councilman; Richard Brooks, Councilman; Larry Beeman, Councilman; Brian M. Alligood, City Manager; Cynthia S. Bennett, City Clerk and Franz Holscher, City Attorney.

Also present were: Matt Rauschenbach, Administrative Services Director/C.F.O.; Robbie Rose, Fire Chief; Allen Lewis, Public Works Director; Gloria Moore, Library Director; Susan Hodges, Human Resources Director; Kristi Roberson, Parks and Recreation Manager; Keith Hardt, Electric Utilities Director; John Rodman, Community & Cultural Services Director; David Carraway, Network Administrator and Mike Voss, Washington Daily News.

Mayor Hodges called the meeting to order and Councilman Pitt delivered the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Roberson, Council approved the minutes of February 9, 2015 as presented.

**APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:**

Mayor Hodges reviewed the requested amendments to the agenda:

- Move from Consent Item C: Purchase Orders >\$20,000 (**discussed after approval of Consent Agenda**)

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council approved the agenda as amended.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Beeman, Council approved the consent agenda as amended.

A. Declare Surplus/Authorize – Electronic Auction of Vehicles through GovDeals

<u>Vehicle #</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Odometer Reading</u>
#164	2004 Pontiac Grand Prix	2G2WR524641341656	90,022
#237	2002 Jeep Laredo	1J4GW48S22C23804	135,560
#810	2002 Dodge Ram 2500	3B7KC26Z72M258694	107,916

B. Adopt – Budget Ordinance Amendment to fund Storm Water Technical & Financial Services study from Martin-McGill

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, N.C. FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015**

**BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Washington, North Carolina:**

Section 1. That the Estimated Revenues in the Storm Water Fund be increased in the following accounts and amounts:

34-90-3991-9100	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$64,500
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Section 2. That the following accounts and amounts be increased in the Administration & Operations division of the Storm Water Fund appropriations budget to fund a technical and financial services review by Martin-McGill:

34-90-5710-0400	Professional Services	\$64,500
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Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2015.

**ATTEST:**

**s/Cynthia S. Bennett**  
**City Clerk**

**s/Mac Hodges**  
**Mayor**

- C. **Removed from Consent (discussed after approval of Consent Agenda) Approve** –  
Purchase Orders >\$20,000

**APPROVE – PURCHASE ORDERS >\$20,000** (Item C from Consent Agenda)

Councilman Mercer expressed concern with the requisitions and the memo from Keith Hardt (printed below) his utmost concern was the memo stated “*Due to the long lead time on the materials I request approval to issue a purchase order for not to exceed \$50,000 prior to the 23 February 2015 City Council meeting so as to have all of the materials in stock prior to construction.*” City Manager, Brian Allgood explained that the purchase order has not been written yet.

- Requisition # 15732, \$46,800, to HD Supply Power Solutions to purchase underground cable for the 15<sup>th</sup> St. Feeder exit project, account 35-90-8370-7400. HD Supply was the low bid.
- Requisition # 15733, \$5,080.14, to Westinghouse Electric Supply to purchase material for the 15<sup>th</sup> St. Feeder project, account 35-90-8370-7400.

*Memo from Keith Hardt, Electric Utilities Director*

*Re: Main Substation 15<sup>th</sup> Street Feeder Exit*

*Over the past few weeks we have been working to isolate a disturbance problem on the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Feeder. We have determined that the underground feeder exit from Main Substation is the cause of the disturbance. This feeder exit conductor needs to be replaced.*

*Included in the current Capital Improvement Plan and the FY 2014-15 approved budget is a project to replace the conduit raceways for all six (6) underground feeder exits and the conductor for four (4) of the feeders at Main Substation. We are currently preparing the contract labor and equipment bid package for this project and material acquisition is well underway. The remaining two (2) feeder conductors are included in the FY 2015-16 budget request. Unfortunately, the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Feeder exit is not included in the current fiscal year approved project. The most cost effective option is to proceed with the replacement of all six (6) feeder exits in the current project scope and not include the request in the FY 2015-16 budget request. I will prepare a City Council request for \$120,000 in additional funds needed for material purchases and additional labor and equipment costs for the replacement of other two (2) feeder exits.*

*Due to the long lead time on the materials I request approval to issue a purchase order for not to exceed \$50,000 prior to the 23 February 2015 City Council meeting so as to have all of the materials in stock prior to construction.(end memo)*

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Roberson, Council approved the Purchase Orders > \$20,000 as presented.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**SUSAN ZACHARY: AIRPORT NAME CHANGE**

Susan Zachary came forward and explained that Lindsay Carter Warren Sr. was a North Carolina congressman born in Washington. Mr. Warren served eight terms as a congressman. He resigned from Congress in 1940, after first being elected in 1925, to serve as comptroller general of the United States. He also served several terms as a member of the N.C. House of Representatives, before and after congressional terms.

Ms. Zachary expressed concern with the proposed name change from “Warren Field” to “Washington Warren Field” This will appear that Mr. Warren’s first name is “Washington” as the proposed name will not be hyphenated. She continued by discussing the cost associated with changing the name.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: NONE**

**CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL REPORTS:**  
**DISCUSSION – GRANT UPDATES**

**Grant Executive Summary**  
as of 1/31/2015

Active Fund	Grant Description	Dates			Financials				Deliverable				Notes
		Award	Expiration	Completion	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Metric	Total	Achieved	Bal.	
50	CDBG Affordable Housing	04/09/10	10/31/14	09/30/15	227,700	185,719	227,700	185,719	LMI homes	10	6	4	6 completed, performance extension granted
52	Comprehensive Bicycle Plan	05/26/11	12/31/13	06/30/14	35,000	30,430	35,000	32,288				0	Council approved plan in December, pending DOT approval
55	idX/Impressions NC One Grant	09/30/13	09/30/16		300,000	-	300,000	-	Jobs/investment	160	0	160	Jobs created but not since award date
61	Pedestrian Plan Grant	05/20/13	09/30/13	12/31/14	10,000	10,000	10,000	-				0	Plan being drafted, complete early 2015
65	Econ. Development- Spinrite	01/07/12	01/07/15	01/07/15	90,000	90,447	90,000	67,500	Jobs	90	81	9	Final match to be paid in February
66	Airport Terminal Grant	04/04/13	07/01/15	03/31/15	1,254,488	980,453	1,254,488	700,244				0	Construction begun, complete March 31
67	Façade Grant Program	07/01/13	06/30/14		20,000	20,023	20,000	10,912				0	In progress, 6 reimbursed, 2 pending
69	Way Finding			04/01/15	150,000	150,244	150,000	12,163					Reviewing w/ DOT, cost estimate & recommendation by 4/1/15
71	Airport Lighting Rehab			12/31/14	460,121	66,379	460,121	38,927					Bid awarded Nov. 24th
72	Municipal Pier Access Grant				135,000	-	135,000	-					Construction bid awarded, complete by June 30th
75	Firefighter's Assistance- Exhaust	08/08/14	08/07/15		50,000	-	50,000	-					Equipment ordered
76	EDA Water Projects	09/11/13	03/11/17	02/28/17	1,428,262	706,133	1,428,262	36,886				0	Bid awarded January 2015, notice to proceed Feb. 23
77	EDA Sewer Grants	09/11/13	03/11/17	02/28/17	1,423,894	703,974	1,423,894	157,505				0	Bid awarded January 2015, notice to proceed Feb. 23
	CDBG Keysville Rd.	2005	6/4/2013	06/30/16	320,000	320,000	320,000	320,000				0	Lot 1 does not qualify for LMI. Construction on lot 2 & 3 near compl.
32	TAG- Sanitary sewer study	05/12/14		09/09/14	35,000	-	35,000	30,625					Completed, reimbursement to be requested
37	Airport Approach Survey	07/01/14	07/01/16		16,986	-	16,986	12,629					Survey completed
	idX Building Reuse				504,000	-	504,000	-					Award notification received, Mid-East administering
10	NC Cardinal	07/01/14		06/30/15	22,345	-	22,345	-					Grant awarded, complete by 6/30/15
10	Historic Preservation Grant	07/01/14	08/21/15		15,000	-	15,000	-					PO issued to update National Registry Inventory
10	EZ Technology Library Grant	11/03/14	12/12/14	04/15/15	4,863	5,223	4,863	-					Equipment received in February

Applications	Pre-App	Selected	Final App	Grant	Match	Total	
FEMA AFG Fire Engine/Resc. Tools	11/30/14			353,929	18,571	372,500	Application submitted
Havens Garden PARTF				250,000	250,000	500,000	Application submitted, award notification July

Councilman Mercer asked the City Manager to give an update on the Keysville Road Subdivision. Brian Allgood explained that the City received notice from NC Commerce that the first house in the Keysville Road Subdivision does not qualify as LMI. As you recall, we asked for their assistance in determining the owners LMI status and they told us to use our best judgment and they would review it later. Matt Rauschenbach researched all the information available and even sent the information and his rationale for determining that they did qualify as LMI to Commerce before closing on the house. At that time we asked them to review our determination and let us know if they agreed. Again, they did not offer any assistance. Mr. Allgood spoke with Melody Adams, Acting Director of the CDBG program, and expressed his frustration with their recent decision due to the fact that we asked repeatedly for assistance and were not given any. She agreed that her staff should have helped but said she could not accept the LMI status. Reverend Moore has been notified of this decision. Ms. Adams also stated that based on the price of the remaining houses built in the subdivision, the only way an LMI owner could qualify was if they had no outstanding debt at all. This is almost impossible in today's economy. Ms. Adams has assured Mr. Allgood that they will assist us in the future with LMI status determination for the remaining homes. If the houses do not qualify for LMI status the City will be responsible for the entire claw back until 2016.

**DISCUSSION – PROJECT UPDATES**

Capital Project Status FY 2014/2015

2/11/2015

Fund/Department	Account	Description	Budget \$	Spent	Open PO	Balance	Status	Notes
<b>General Fund:</b>								
IT	10-00-4132-7400	Wireless Bridge- sewer plant	1,204	(1,632)	0	2,836	Completed PY, TDA phone move CR	1
		Redundant PRI	6,917	6,709	0	208	Complete	1
		Redundant Cisco phone svr.	19,063	18,617	0	446	Complete	1
		IP addressing	1,520	1,520	0	0	Complete	1
		Total IT	28,704	25,214	0	3,490		
Police	10-10-4310-7400	Vehicles	134,000	105,458	19,219	9,323	4 received, equipment on order	
Fire	10-10-4340-7400	Thermal imaging camera	8,105	8,094	0	11	Complete	1
		Support vehicle 1	29,914	29,302	0	612	Complete	
		Total Fire	38,019	37,396	0	623		
Planning	10-10-4910-7400	Streetscape	25,000	0	0	25,000	Committee meeting Feb. 19	
	10-10-4910-0400	Havens Garden Master Plan	7,200	3,137	4,063	0	Completed, balance to be paid	
Powell Bill	10-20-4511-4500	Street Paving	279,208	208,688	46,299	24,221	Original contract completed	2
Street Maintenance	10-20-4510-7400	Dump truck #454	64,000	63,816	0	184	Complete	
Library	10-40-6110-7400	PC virtualization	14,700	12,471	0	2,229	Complete	
Outside Agency	10-40-6170-9113	Veterans Park Sign	6,920	3,946	745	2,229	Complete	1,2
Rec. Maintenance	10-40-6130-7400	3rd St ball field RR	59,620	59,620	0	0	Complete	1
		Utility trucks # 807 & 810	63,783	64,491	0	(708)	Complete	
		Total Rec. Maintenance	123,403	124,111	0	(708)		
<b>Total General Fund</b>			<b>721,154</b>	<b>584,236</b>	<b>70,326</b>	<b>66,591</b>		
Water:								
Water Meter Svc.	30-90-7250-7000	AMR meters	110,000	73,225	1,836	34,939	Complete end of April	1
Water Treatment	30-90-8100-7400	Van #552 & pickup #565	40,000	39,241	0	759	Complete	
Water Maintenance	30-90-8140-7400	Truck #414 body	7,393	8,399	0	(1,006)	Complete	1
Water Construction	30-90-8180-0400	16" WL engineering	61,653	980	60,673	0	Design compl. & project bid. Balance for co	1
	30-90-8180-7400	Summit Ave. water line	168,806	76,380	0	92,426	Complete	1,2
		Total Water Fund	<b>387,851</b>	<b>198,225</b>	<b>62,509</b>	<b>127,118</b>		
Sewer:								
Wastewater Treatment	32-90-8220-7000	Blast & paint clarifiers 1&2	14,600	14,600	0	0	Complete	1
	32-90-8220-7400	Vehicle #549	25,000	24,911	0	89	Complete	
	32-90-8220-7400	Effluent control panel	24,000	8,744	11,766	3,490	Complete by April 1	
	32-90-8220-7400	Tractor equipment	17,000	15,816	0	1,184	Complete	
Lift Stations	32-90-8230-7400	Rebuild 5th&Respass pump c	40,000	11,932	27,840	228	Complete June 1	
	32-90-8230-7400	Fountain L.S. generator	8,663	913	4,396	3,354	Complete	1
		Total Sewer Fund	<b>129,263</b>	<b>76,915</b>	<b>44,002</b>	<b>8,346</b>		

Capital Project Status FY 2014/2015

2/11/2015

Fund/Department	Account	Description	Budget \$	Spent	Open PO	Balance	Status	Notes
<b>Electric:</b>								
Electric Director	35-90-7220-0400	Peak Shaving Rate Study	8,962	8,176	786	0	Complete	1
		Total Electric Director	8,962	8,176	786	0		
Electric Meter Service	35-90-7250-7400	Test Switches	1,740	1,740	0	0	Complete	1
		Meters & handhelds	70,000	14,525	0	55,475	In progress	
		Total Electric Meter Svc.	71,740	16,265	0	55,475		
Substation Maint.	35-90-8370-7400	Eastern substation breaker	46,512				Completed	1
		VOA recloser	20,000				Not started.	
		Distribution reclosers	20,000				On order	
		Capacitors	8,000				Not started.	
		E. substation security system	2,500				Using Tropos. Started.	
		FRHL & Whar St. bus metering	5,500				Complete	
		Chocowinity breaker rebuild	100,000				Complete	
		Main substation rebuild	250,000	0	0		Acquiring materials	
		Total Substation	452,512	101,242	129,690	221,580		
		Load Management	35-90-8375-7400	Load management switches	70,000	65,835	0	4,165
Power Line Construction	35-90-8390-7400	2nd St./5th St Rebuild Engine	71,538				Complete	2
		High School Feeder relocation	114,332				Complete	1,2
		Grimesland Feeder Engineering	73,226				Complete	1,2
		NC 32 Feeder Engineering	32,299				Complete	1,2
		White Post/Slatestone Feeder	100,000				Delayed to FY 15. Not started	2
		NC 32 Feeder rebuild	325,000				Under construction	
		2nd St./5th St Rebuild	300,000				Acquiring materials	
		Line truck #617	230,000				On order	
		Dually F350 #613	50,000				On order	
		Portable air compressor	20,000				Compiling specs	
		Total Power Line Construct	1,316,395	231,632	369,709	715,054		
		<b>Total Electric Fund</b>			<b>1,919,609</b>	<b>423,150</b>	<b>500,185</b>	<b>996,274</b>
Solid Waste Collection:	38-90-4710-7400	Two leaf machines	60,000	51,042	0	8,958	Complete	
		Total Solid Waste	60,000	51,042	0	8,958		
Cemetery: Cemetery Fund	39-90-4740-5600 39-90-4740-7400	Storm drain repairs	7,223	7,223	0	0	Complete	2
		Two equipment sheds	30,000	3,000	27,000	0	Complete April 1	
		Total Cemetery	37,223	10,223	27,000	0		
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>3,255,100</b>	<b>1,343,791</b>	<b>704,022</b>	<b>1,207,287</b>		

Notes:  
1 PO carryforward  
2 Project carryforward

**MEMO – CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF)**

*(memo accepted as presented) Allen Lewis, Public Works Director*

On Monday, February 9, 2015, I attended a CWSRF workshop at the local NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources offices. These funds can be used for water and wastewater projects, including the possibility of 0% interest rate loans for rehabilitation type projects. At least \$65 million will be available for the March 31, 2015 deadline. Staff feels like we could be successful in applying for work to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I) in some of our older gravity sewer lines. With your permission, we would like to apply for an amount not to exceed \$2 million worth of work. At 0% interest, this will mean a \$100,000 annual payment over 20 years. Even if we did not qualify for a 0% interest rate loan, the maximum percentage rate should be in the 1.7% range which would mean an annual payment of approximately \$115,000. (end memo)

Councilman Mercer asked if staff would be submitting paperwork detailing the scope of the project to Council prior to applying for funds. Mr. Allgood noted this is actually a request to start the process for applying for funding. We would have to detail the “scope of the project” and bring that detail back to Council. Our intent right now is to look at the drainage basin/pump station on Bridge Street as there are a lot of I/I issues there. We will also focus on the historic district.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson discussed the projects already listed in the CIP and Mr. Allgood explained this request is for additional funding for rehab projects. Councilman Pitt inquired about the funding and Mr. Allgood explained that due to the age of our system, we should be very competitive in the application process for the loan.

**MEMO – BUDGET TRANSFER ~ ELECTRIC FUND**

*(memo accepted as presented) Matt Rauschenbach, C.F.O.*

The Budget Officer transferred \$10,000 of funds between the Power Line Construction and Maintenance divisions of the Electric Fund appropriations budget for T & D building upgrades. A prior year purchase order for this planned work was liquidated during year end processing.

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NC GS 159-15 states that this shall be reported to the Council at its next regular meeting and be entered in the minutes.

FROM: 3590-8390-4500 \$10,000  
TO: 3590-8380-1500 \$10,000

**MEMO – BUDGET TRANSFER ~ ELECTRIC FUND SUBSTATION**

*(memo accepted as presented) Matt Rauschenbach, C.F.O.*

The Budget Officer transferred \$100,000 of funds between the Power Line Construction and Substation Maintenance divisions of the Electric Fund appropriations budget to complete the Main Substation 15<sup>th</sup> St. Feeder Exit Project planned for next fiscal year. The White/Post Slatestone feeder engineering project is being deferred until next fiscal year to provide funding for the transfer.

NC GS 159-15 states that this shall be reported to the Council at its next regular meeting and be entered in the minutes.

FROM: 3590-8390-7400 \$100,000  
TO: 3590-8380-7400 \$100,000

**MEMO – JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> FIREWORKS**

*(memo accepted as presented) Kristi Roberson, Parks & Recreation Manager*

In March of 2012 City Council authorized the City Manager to sign the Release, Hold Harmless and Indemnification agreement with Bridge Harbor, LLC. City Council also authorized the City Manager to sign the Agreement with East Coast Pyrotechnics, INC. The Manager was authorized to sign these agreements for future years as long as the release or agreement did not change.

The Release, Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement from the City to Bridge Harbor, LLC for the use of Bridge Harbor, LLC's property during the July 4, 2015 is in the process of being executed. The Agreement with East Coast Pyrotechnics is also in the process of being executed. The City will, again, partner with the Washington Harbor District Alliance for the July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities.

**REPORTS FROM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES: NONE**

**APPOINTMENTS: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**AWARD/APPROVE – AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING FURNISHINGS TO J. MORGAN DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC., AND APPROVE THE CORRESPONDING PURCHASE ORDER**

City Manager, Brian Alligood explained staff requested bids of five companies for furnishings for the new terminal building. We received one bid from J. Morgan Design Associates, Inc. of Greenville, NC in the amount of \$64,842, excluding sales tax. Mr. Alligood voiced the budget amendment attached will provide the needed additional funds to cover this expense. There should be no need to use any of the contingency for this project. Staff is requesting to have all of the contingency appropriated to cover any additional costs associated with furnishings beyond what was covered in the bid such as computers, etc.

At the last progress meeting, changes thus far in the contract will result in an approximate \$6,000 savings in the construction of the building itself if things continue to progress as they are now.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson inquired if contingency funds were being used for this and Mr. Alligood answered "yes". Councilman Mercer noted that the original budget was for "furnishing the building", he thought the \$51,000 included everything that was needed. Mr. Alligood explained that the computers and telephone system were not included in the original budget of \$51,000.

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Beeman, Council awarded the airport terminal building furnishings purchase and installation to J. Morgan Design Group, Inc., approved a budget ordinance amendment, and approved the corresponding purchase order.

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**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE AIRPORT  
TERMINAL CITY OF WASHINGTON, N.C. FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Washington, North Carolina:

Section 1. That the following appropriation accounts in the Airport Terminal grant be increased or decreased by the following amounts:

66-90-4530-3304	Furnishings	\$ 26,508
66-90-4530-9900	Contingency	<u>(26,508)</u>
	Total	\$ 0

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2015.

**ATTEST:**

**s/Cynthia S. Bennett**  
City Clerk

**s/Mac Hodges**  
Mayor

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ALLOW – “LITTLE FREE LIBRARY” – DOG PARK**

Monica Ferrari requested permission from the Recreation Advisory Committee during the December 15, 2014 Recreation Advisory Committee meeting to install a “Little Free Library” at the Washington Dog Park. A motion was made, seconded, and supported by all members to install a “Little Free Library.” Council permitted Noon Rotary to install a Little Free Library on Stewart Parkway.

Discussion was held regarding the proposal and the need for all of the “Little Free Libraries” to look alike, not necessarily the same color.

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Roberson, Council approved the placement of a Little Free Library at the dog park provided the design is the same as the Little Free Library downtown (Stewart Parkway).

**APPROVE – CIP 2016-2020**

Brian Alligood explained that he has received comments from several Council members regarding the possibility of holding a separate meeting to review the CIP.

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council continued the discussion of the CIP until a special meeting can be set.

**APPROVE – AIRPORT NAME CHANGE TO WASHINGTON WARREN FIELD**

The City Manager explained that the terminal is being built and there has been conversation by the Airport Advisory Board regarding the name of the airport. There seems to be some confusion in the airport circles regarding “Warren Field”. The thought was that there needed to be some designation of “Washington” in the name. Discussion was held at a special meeting of Airport Advisory Board on February 20<sup>th</sup> about hyphenating the name, because we didn’t want people to think that Mr. Warren’s first name was Washington. The proposal was made to amend the original motion and change the name to Washington-Warren Field. In order for the original motion to be amended, someone that voted in favor of the original motion would have to agree to the amendment, this did not happen. The Airport Advisory Board voted 3-1 to recommend to Council to change the name to Washington Warren Field

Mayor Pro tem Roberson suggested that the name should be “Washington-Warren Airport” not Washington Warren Field as most people associate the word “field” with an athletic field and not an airport.

Gil Alligood, Chairman of the Airport Advisory Board summarized the history and efforts of the Airport Advisory Board noting the board has worked for over a year and a half to improve the airport. There has been an effort to make the airport more visible and more known in the area. One of the ways to accomplish this would be to change the airport name. The first problem is confusion for those that fly

into the airport as this is an uncontrolled airport – there are no towers. Pilots have to state their airplane number and that they are calling “Washington Warren Traffic”. Some other pilots may say they are calling “Washington County” or “Warren County” airport. This can cause confusion with other pilots. There is still controversy with the board as to what the new name should be. On February 10<sup>th</sup> the Airport Advisory Board met and a motion was made to change the name to Washington Warren Field (this vote passed 3-1). Mr. Gil Alligood explained he has heard several comments regarding the word “field”. Subsequently, a special meeting of the advisory board was held on February 20<sup>th</sup> to reconsider the name change, no action was taken to change the original motion. Therefore, the original motion by the board is to submit to Council to change the airport name to “Washington Warren Field”.

Councilman Mercer noted that he was unable to attend the advisory board meeting, but feels Council should take some steps to make the name more distinct. He agreed with Mayor Pro tem Roberson that the name should be “Washington-Warren Airport”.

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Roberson, seconded by Councilman Mercer, Council voted to change the name of the airport from Warren Field to Washington-Warren Airport.

**PUBLIC HEARING - ZONING: NONE**

**PUBLIC HEARING - OTHER:**

**PUBLIC HEARING – CONCERNING INCREASING THE TERMS OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON’S MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM TWO TO FOUR YEAR STAGGERED TERMS**

*The public will take notice that the City of Washington City Council will conduct a public hearing in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 23, 2015 to receive public input concerning the possibility of increasing the Mayor’s and Council Members’ terms from two to four year staggered terms, with the increases in terms not taking effect until after a future municipal election.*

Mayor Hodges opened the public hearing.

Derek Davis, a resident of Washington noted that he didn’t have any real strong objections to changing the term lengths if it helps in the representation of the citizens of Washington. He continued by stating he did have very strong feelings that any change in representation or the length of representation should ultimately be subject to the approval of the voters of Washington. Mr. Davis reviewed the minutes from the February 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in which the City Attorney spoke about the various procedures for amending the Charter, most specifically changing the Mayor and/or Council members terms from two year to four year staggered terms.

There being no further public comments, Mayor Hodges closed the public hearing.

Councilman Mercer reminded the Council members they had received word by email from Washington residents Jerry and Martha Seighman, who were out of town Monday, that they oppose four-year terms.

*Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 11:34 AM*

*Dear Council Members:*

*In as much as I will be on vacation in Florida (It was scheduled 6 months ago for Feb 18th-26th) on the day when the City Council has scheduled a public hearing on changing the city council members term limits I wish to make my voice heard via this e-mail.*

*My wife and I discussed the proposed change and we **do not approve** of the proposed change in term limits. Please leave the term of office at two years.*

*I would recommend that this proposed change be placed on the next city election ballot in as much as most citizens of the City of Washington would be either going to or returning from work at 6 pm and may not be able to attend the Council Meeting.*

*Respectfully,*

*Martha & Gerald Seighman*

*203 North Reed Drive*

*Washington - The Original, NC 27889*

Councilman Pitt noted that, “Although this has become something that is going on across the state, that does not necessarily mean we have to adopt it. I do understand the concept of staying with four-year terms with regard to major projects, things that are ongoing that need the continuity of the council, but again, with regard to Mr. Davis, I do believe the public should make the final decision.”

Mayor Mac Hodges and Councilman Brooks said further study of the issue is needed to determine what effects changing the term lengths could have. Councilman Brooks said, “anything we do, we need to study it, check it out before we do it. After you do something, it’s too late to study it. We should make every effort to study this and get feedback from the public.”

Mayor Pro tem Roberson suggested that “we should place this item on the ballot in November and let the public decide what they want so we can close this topic once and for all.”

Councilman Beeman said he agreed with Mayor Pro tem Roberson - that the public should vote. His question is, what term length are we discussing? Mr. Alligood explained that we would need to discuss the proper language for the ballot with the School of Government. Mr. Alligood explained the various possibilities regarding staggered terms. By statute you are not allowed to have two year staggered terms.

Councilman Mercer explained that he is opposed to four year terms. He has been sitting on this Council for twelve years and during that time this topic has been discussed twice (last year and last meeting). This is not something that come up constantly. He continued by stating he didn’t mind facing the voters every two years, if he’s doing his job, then he will be voted back in office. He feels the citizens deserve this opportunity every two years.

Councilman Pitt stated that having the term up for election every two years allows Council members the chance to gauge the public more, they do get to meet you, get to see what you are doing, etc. The citizens should have the right to decide if the term length is two or four years.

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Councilman Pitt, Council voted to continue the method of election that they are currently using. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Beeman opposing.

**ANY OTHER ITEMS FROM CITY MANAGER:**  
**UPDATES ON PLAQUES**

City Manager, Brian Alligood updated Council regarding the plaques that were removed from the waterfront. Mr. Alligood explained that it has been determined that the monuments that originally housed the plaques were saved, but will require some cleaning. If it’s Council’s desire to replace the plaques at the newly located flagpole, then staff can have those installed within the next couple of weeks. In regards to the bronze plaque to be installed at the lighthouse, a preliminary cost estimate came in at \$5500, we are seeking another quote. Discussion was held regarding alternate types of material for this sign. Staff will seek alternate types of materials and quotes for same.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**  
**NONE**

**CLOSED SESSION: NONE**

**ADJOURN:**

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council adjourned the meeting at 6:25 pm until Monday, March 9, 2015 at 5:30 pm, in the Council Chambers.

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**Cynthia S. Bennett, CMC**  
**City Clerk**