

The Washington City Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Mac Hodges, Mayor; Virginia Finnerty, Mayor Pro tem; Doug Mercer, Councilmember; William Pitt, Councilmember; Richard Brooks, Councilmember and Larry Beeman; Councilmember. Also present: Bobby Roberson, City Manager; Cynthia S. Bennett, City Clerk and Franz Holscher, City Attorney.

Mayor Hodges called the meeting to order and Councilmember Brooks delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

By motion of Councilmember Pitt seconded by Councilmember Mercer, Council approved the minutes of March 14, 2016 as presented.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council approved the agenda as presented.

RECOGNITION:

**CAPTAIN R.M. FLOWERS – BEAUFORT COUNTY FIREMAN OF THE YEAR
ENGINEER JONATHAN PATTERSON – PAID BEAUFORT COUNTY EMT OF THE YEAR**



Mayor Hodges posed for a photo with Engineer Jonathan Patterson; Captain R.M. Flowers; Fire Chief Robbie Rose and Police and Fire Services Director, Stacy Drakeford

CONSENT AGENDA:

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council approved the consent agenda as presented.

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

<u>*Vehicle #</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Serial #</u>	<u>Odometer Reading</u>
802	2001 Chev. Astro Van	Recreation	1GNDM19W21B135352	88,709

B. Adopt – Storm Water Capital Project Ordinance Amendment

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE
RECOVERY ZONE BOND STORM WATER PROJECTS
CITY OF WASHINGTON, N.C.
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016**

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

Section 1. That the Estimated Revenues in the Storm Water Capital Project be increased in the amount of \$12, 039 in the account Interest Earned, account number 58-90-3831-0000.

Section 2. That the following accounts be increased or decreased in the Storm Water Fund appropriations budget:

58-90-5710-0400	Professional Services	\$(2,382)
58-90-5710-0405	Engineering	(1,068)
58-90-5710-4500	Construction	111,742
58-90-5710-9900	Contingency	<u>(96,253)</u>
	Total	\$12,039

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 All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.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 28th day of March, 2016.

ATTEST:

s/Cynthia S. Bennett
City Clerk

s/Jay MacDonald Hodges
Mayor

C. Approve – Purchase Orders > \$20,000

**Soundside Group for the storage area network component of our disaster recovery systems in the amount of \$34,350*

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Rev. David Moore – Building Reuse Grant

Rev. David Moore and Martyn Johnson (Beaufort County Economic Development) discussed with Council a Building Reuse Grant for the creation of approximately 50 jobs in the former shirt factory located at 418 North Brown Street. The Department of Commerce is offering grants in Tier 1 and Tier 2 communities. The jobs must be full time jobs with health insurance, as well as additional benefits and must be for at least 18 months. Rev. Moore explained that he needs the City's endorsement (letter of intent) in order to get to the next phase in the grant cycle.

Councilmember Brooks inquired about the need for a claw back agreement if Council chose to support this grant application in order to protect the City. The claw back would be for \$12,500 for each job not created under the grant. Mayor Hodges inquired what business has agreed to go in the building. Rev. Moore explained they are currently looking at a few businesses already in Washington that would like to expand as well as a few start-up businesses.

Councilmember Mercer was under the impression the request tonight was for a CDBG grant for water and sewer needs. Rev. Moore noted he's applying for two different grants. The \$250k grant is for the 50 bed assisted living facility off of Hodges. The grant being discussed tonight is for \$500k. Rev. Moore is still working on where the match will come from. Martyn Johnson explained that the local match of 5% would be from the City and is usually in the form of a donation. If the grant is approved, the City would have to match \$25k. The pre-application is due April 26th with the application due May 3rd. Martyn Johnson explained that the City needs to supply a letter of support in order for Rev. Moore to proceed to the next phase of the project. The Department of Commerce announces grant awards on June 26th. The application would be from the City and funds would flow to Rev. Moore. Councilmember Pitt inquired about the maximum number of businesses in the structure on Brown Street. Rev. Moore noted the structure is approximately 76,000 sq. ft. and they are looking at between 8-10 businesses. Councilmember Beeman inquired if the City Attorney has had an opportunity to review the agreement.

Franz Holscher explained the request is for a letter of intent and he has not had an opportunity to review the letter. Mr. Holscher reminded Council that they have a standing policy regarding matters that are not on the agenda and those items require four affirmative votes in order to pass. Councilmember Beeman stated that he is not ready to vote on this item until Mr. Holscher has had time to review the information.

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council tabled Rev. Moore's request until the April 11th Council meeting.

Councilmember Beeman noted that with the next meeting being on April 11th, this allows Rev. Moore additional time to meet with the City Attorney. It also allows Rev. Moore time to deliver his information for the agenda package in order for Council to have time to review it properly and be ready to vote on April 11th.

PUBLIC HEARING 6:00PM– ZONING: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING 6:00PM - OTHER: NONE

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:
MICKEY COCHRAN – PARKING UPDATE

Mickey Cochran, 317 E. 10th Street appeared before Council to ask for a no parking zone on East 10th from Nicholson to Telfair Street. Mr. Cochran reviewed that his neighbors are purposely parking their vehicles in front of his home, which prohibits parking for his visitors.

A neighbor (name not given) asked what makes one side of the street more important than the other. She continued by saying not everyone agrees with Mr. Cochran. She does not want parking prohibited in her neighborhood.

Bobby Roberson explained that he will be holding a meeting with members of the neighborhood and will have a recommendation ready for Council on April 11th.

CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

REPORTS FROM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:
HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL – (accepted as presented)

MISSION STATEMENT

- To promote social and economic equality in the community, working with Local Government and other resources
- To appreciate the cultural and ethnic diversity of the citizens of Washington and Beaufort County
- To encourage citizens to live and work together in harmony and mutual respect

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

Chief Robbie Rose: Chief Rose approached the Board regarding a Historical Marker for Edward Peed. He explained the documentation required to meet the criteria for obtaining a Historical Marker. Tentatively, Human Relations Council will be presenting a Council Action item to City Council for approval before submitting any paperwork.

By consensus, HRC Board agreed to form a sub-committee consisting of:

- Board member Griffin
- Board member O'Pharrow
- Vice-chair Hawn

Larry McDaniel: Mr. McDaniel presented highlights from his interview with Ms. Sarah Louise Keys Evans. Also, he requested support and representation from the Human Relations Council on the event Mother of Mercy will host on Sunday, April 3, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion – Ed Peed Commemoration Program: Chief Robbie Rose thanked the Board members for another successful event.

Vice-chair Wright voiced thank you letters, cash donations, contributions, and financials (inclusive of report/invoices & receipts) were discussed and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment/Discussion: With the resignation of Chair St. Clair, Vice-chair Wright expressed her desire to be appointed to the chair position of the HRC Board and Board member Hawn agreed to become Vice-chair to the Human Relations Council.

By motion of Board member Wilson, seconded by Board member O'Pharrow, the Board appointed Vice-chair Wright to Chairperson of the Human Relations Council.

By motion of Board member Hammonds, seconded by Board member Wilson, Council appointed Board member Hawn to Vice-chair of the Human Relations Council.

Discussion – Fair Housing Program: Chairperson Wright advised the HRC Board that Washington/Beaufort County Board of Realtors had expressed an interest in assisting the Human Relations Council with this year's Fair Housing Program (monetary, contribution, etc.). Also, she advised that City Council had allocated funding in the City Manager's budget for the HRC Board; therefore, funding from Board members would no longer be necessary for any sponsored event. Funding will be derived from Council appropriation or individual/business contribution.

By consensus, HRC Board agreed to form a sub-committee consisting of:

- Board member Hammonds

- Board member Wilson
- Board member Lawrence

OTHER BUSINESS:

FYI – All FYI items and reminders were discussed inclusive of the February 9, 2016 report submitted to City Council, proclamation picture, and financial report.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Chairman Wright discussed a request received from former Board member Emma Howard regarding a certificate for her years of service and contribution to the Human Relations Council. Ms. Howard voiced she served at least twelve (12) years.

By consensus, the Board agreed to present former Board member Emma Howard with a certificate during the next Human Relations Council meeting (4-12-16). Chair Wright will contact Ms. Howard and invite her to the April meeting. Councilman Pitt suggested with the numerous years of service Ms. Howard has provided (9-13-2004 – 6-8-2015) she should be recognized by City Council.

By consensus, the Board agreed to present certificates to members who serve a full three (3) year term noting this Board is different from other Boards of the City of Washington.

APPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENT – HISTORIC PRESREVATION COMMISSION

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Finnerty, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council appointed Mark Everett to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill the un-expired term of Seth Shoneman, term to expire June 30, 2016.

APPOINTMENT – RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council appointed Will Tyson to the Recreation Advisory Committee to fill the un-expired term of Leah Pyburn (inside), term to expire June 30, 2017.

OLD BUSINESS:

APPROVE – CIVIC CENTER MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Bobby Roberson explained the request is for the Civic Center management contract between the City of Washington and the Tourism Development Authority. The contract typically has a term for five years along with an annual subsidy from the City. The current subsidy is \$40,000, in years past, City Council agreed to decrease the annual subsidy by \$5,000 until the amount reaches zero. Subsequently, the Tourism Development Authority desires to appoint a committee to negotiate the contract. The committee will include a member of Council and the City Manager along with the Tourism Development Authority. Councilmember Mercer volunteered to serve on the committee.

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council appointed Doug Mercer to serve on the committee along with the City Manager and the Tourism Development Authority to prepare the Civic Center Management Contract.

Bobby Roberson noted a recommendation will be presented to Council on April 11th.

**APPROVE - FUNDING APPROPRIATION FOR OUTSIDE AGENCIES –
FY 2016-2017**

Background and Findings: The City Council has requested agencies to complete an application for funding for fiscal year 2016-2017. We have included the list of agencies with their request. Funding of “outside agencies” has been an on-going process for over ten years.

Agency Funding Requests	2015/2016 Budget	2016/2017 Request	3/11/2016	
			Proposed 10% Reduction FY 2016/2017	Proposed 50% Reduction FY 2016/2017
Outside Agencies				
Boys & Girls Club	14,400	20,000	12,960	7200
Zion Shelter	7,650	10,000	6,885	3825
Wright Flight	3,150	5,000	2,835	1575
The Blind Center	1,125	1,500	1,013	582.5
Eagle's Wings	900	5,000	810	450
Purpose of God Outreach Center	18,000	18,000	16,200	9000
Cornerstone Comm. Learning Center	9,000	9,000	8,100	4500
BHIM Library (reciprocal)	7,800	7,800	7,020	3900
Total Outside Agencies	62,025	76,300	55,823	31012.5
Economic Development				
WHDA	55,800	58,000	50,220	27900
Hwy 17 Association	7,500	7,500	6,750	3750
NC Estuarium	18,000	25,000	16,200	9000
BC Arts Council	14,400	50,000	12,960	7200
Christmas Parade - Kiwanis	1,350	1,350	1,215	675
Total Economic Development	97,050	141,850	87,345	48525
Grand Total	159,075	218,150	143,168	79,538

Mayor Pro tem Finnerty asked if Council would be voting on the funding requests as a group or individually. If as a group, she noted she would need to recuse herself under the Arts of the Pamlico request. Bobby Roberson noted that if the Council chose to determine individual funding amounts for each agency then motion "E" would be appropriate. Mayor Pro tem Finnerty said that she opposes the across-the-board cuts and prefers allocating funding on a case-by-case basis.

Councilmember Pitt reminded Council that in previous meetings they discussed reducing funding by 10% for all of the agencies.

Mayor Pro tem Finnerty said she had a problem with the 10% reduction and this was agreed upon before she was elected to Council. She proceeded to read the following mission statement: *"It is our Mission within the City of Washington to build citizen trust by fostering and practicing open, accountable, inclusive, and responsive government; to provide quality municipal services; to preserve and protect Washington's unique Southern character and heritage; to plan and manage growth in harmony with its natural surroundings of the river and the estuary; and to promote livability by enhancing and protecting its diverse neighborhoods. Quality of life for residents and visitors shall be the paramount consideration."*

Mayor Pro tem Finnerty continued by saying, "Given what our mission is, if we vote not to fund, or reduce our support for any of these organizations, we are not being true to our mission and, therefore, not doing our job. Every single organization on this list speaks to our mission." She said the agencies help provide social services, promote cultural resources and enhance economic-development activities in the City, not providing adequate funding for the agencies goes against the City's stated mission. She respectfully requested Councilmember to please keep in mind the mission statement and what it direction is when voting on the funding of the agencies.

Councilmember Mercer explained that purpose of the City is to provide services by the City. These organizations are not City agencies, they are run by non-city employees and not subject to City oversight. He further commented that if we fund them (unless we get a budget, a commitment and an annual audit) we have no idea what this money goes for. Councilmember Mercer reminded everyone that it has been the intent of the Council, for several years, to reduce the participation in non-city activities.

Councilmember Mercer noted that Arts of the Pamlico has assets of \$629,000 and The Blind Center has \$529,000 "in the bank." Arts of the Pamlico is requesting \$50,000. The Blind Center requested \$1,500. He continued by saying, "If they've got those kinds of funds in reserve, we ought not to be giving them more money to put in the bank." He added that we've got needs at the city level that we're not able to fund because we don't have the funds. If we give the agencies the same funding (\$159,075) in the next fiscal year that they currently receive, it would equate to 2 cents on the City's property-tax rate.

Mayor Pro tem Finnerty asked how much funds are in the City reserves. She stated that it is good business to have reserves. The Arts Council used to be in a building that had no rent or

mortgage. She explained that City of Goldsboro totally funds their Arts Council and they understand that it is an economic driver for the city.

Councilmember Beeman acknowledged that we need to have an economic driver and the Arts Council (Arts of the Pamlico) is a great agency. However, we are looking at City employees that are looking for assistance with insurance and possible raises. We are also looking at City buildings that need to be taken care of and we need to take care of those items first. We've tried to make sure we didn't raise taxes and he doesn't want to raise taxes in order to fund these agencies. He has no problem with the aforementioned funding decrease that Council had previously discussed (reduction of 10%).

A motion was made by Councilmember Beeman and seconded by Councilmember Brooks to appropriate funding for each agency by reducing the amount of funding by 10% with the exception of the Zion Shelter. (Leaving funding for the Zion Shelter at the same level.) Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Pro tem Finnerty opposing.

Mayor Hodges voiced his opposition to reducing funding and also discussed the expense associated with the aquatics center.

Discussion was held regarding the process of the Arts Council purchasing the Turnage Theater. Mayor Pro tem Finnerty noted at that time, the City was considering buying the Turnage Theater and Josh Kay (former City Manager) spoke to Joey Toler saying that it was not a good idea for the City to purchase the building. She noted that Mr. Kay also told Mr. Toler for the Arts Council to go ahead and purchase the building and the City will give them the support they would need.

Councilmember Mercer explained that he spoke with former City Manager, Josh Kay and advised Mr. Kay of the statements being made about him encouraging the Arts Council to buy the Turnage and that the City would provide them support. Councilmember Mercer said that Mr. Kay told him that statement was incorrect, that he told the Arts Council that if they purchased the Turnage Theater they could apply for funding (support) from the City just like everyone else, just like they had done in the past. Councilmember Brooks stated that at that time, Council never discussed (in their Council meetings), helping with the purchase of the Turnage. Joey Toler spoke from the audience saying there was never any formal commitment made by the City, but the Arts Council was encouraged to buy the Turnage (by Mr. Kay). Mr. Toler said that Mr. Kay told them the City might be involved in helping them with the Turnage. Mr. Toler said the City's leadership was very involved in the Arts Council's decision to purchase the Turnage.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOVE – SUMMER HOURS – MOORE AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER

Background and Findings: The proposed hours change will save the City an estimated \$1998.00. The proposed normal operating hours were based on current usage at slower participant times. The proposed summer schedule will extend normal operating hours and provide a better quality swim experience for members and visitors. Previous Legislative Action:

*February 4, 2016 – Unanimously approved by the Pool Committee to accept the proposed hours.
February 15, 2016 – Unanimously approved by the Recreation Advisory Committee to accept the proposed hours.*

Proposed Seasonal Hour Change Valuation at the Moore Aquatic & Fitness Center

Current

Day	Open/Close	Total Hours
Monday	5:45-7:30	13.75
Tuesday	5:45-7:30	13.75
Wednesday	5:45-7:30	13.75
Thursday	5:45-7:30	13.75
Friday	5:45-7:30	13.75
Saturday	9:45-6	8.25
Total		77

77 hrs X 51 weeks= 3927 total hours

We used 51 weeks to account for City of Washington holidays when we have reduced hours or are closed.

Proposed

Regular (Jan-May & Sept-Dec)

Day	Open/Close	Total Hours
Monday	5:45-7:00	13.25
Tuesday	5:45-7:00	13.25
Wednesday	5:45-7:00	13.25
Thursday	5:45-7:00	13.25
Friday	5:45-6	12.25
Saturday	10:45-5	6.25
Total		71.5

71.50 hrs X 37 wks = 2645.5 hrs

Summer (June – August)

Day	Open/Close	Total Hours
Monday	5:15-8:30	15.25
Tuesday	5:15-8:30	15.25
Wednesday	5:15-8:30	15.25
Thursday	5:15-8:30	15.25
Friday	5:15-6	12.75
Saturday	9:45-6	8.25
Sunday	11:45-4	4.25
Total		86.25

86.25 hr X 14 wks= 1207.5

Proposed Total Annual Hours=3853

Difference= 3927 (current)-3853 (proposed)=74

74 hrs x 3 employees @ \$9/hr=**\$1,998.00 savings**

Open Swim Hours Changes

Regular Mon. to Thur. 11 am-1 pm and 6-7 pm
Friday 4-6 Saturday 1-3

Summer Mon. to Thur. 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm
Friday 4-6 Saturday 1-3 Sunday 1-3

Adult lap swim suspended during summer or moved to early morning

Councilmember Mercer asked why the hours at the pool would need to increase if the use of the pool is declining. Councilmember Pitt inquired what justifications were used for increasing the hours. Mr. Roberson referenced the background information noting the changes in hours would save approximately \$2,000. Mr. Roberson suggested that Council table the request until April 11th and have the pool committee present the request.

Councilmember Beeman explained that the pool committee and Recreation Advisory Committee has already approved the revised hours. The additional hours will open up avenues to have additional parties on weekends and therefore more revenue.

Councilmember Brooks noted the additional hours will give more people an opportunity to come to the pool that would not have been able to come because the pool was closed during those hours. Mayor Pro Finnerty and Councilman Brooks noted that this will save us money so we should approve the change in operating hours.

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council authorized the Moore Aquatic and Fitness Center to reduce their normal operating hours (January – May & September – December) by 5.5 hours and increase summer hours (June – August) by 14.5 hours. Motion carried 3-2. Voting for: Beeman, Brooks and Finnerty. Opposed: Pitt & Mercer.

Discussion was held regarding the Dectron unit and Mr. Roberson explained that he will bring additional information regarding this item on April 11th.

**APPROVE – APPLICATION FOR HISTORICAL MARKER – 1ST FALLEN
FIREFIGHTER – EDWARD PEED**

Background and Findings: On February 8, 1902 in downtown Washington, North Carolina a fire began about 5:25 pm on a Saturday afternoon. The fire occurred from a defective flue at the Atlantic Coastline Freight Warehouse which was located on the local waterfront. The fire spread rapidly, first to the grain elevator building, then to the Hoyt Store, occupied by E. Peterson Company and on to the warehouse at the rear of the H. Susman Furniture Company. Shortly after 9:00 pm Edward Peed, a nozzle man for the Salamander Fire Company, was throwing water on some of the rubbish when without warning, the western wall of the Hoyt Building fell

on the fireman and killed him instantly. The Human Relations Council and Fire Chief Robbie Rose are requesting Council's approval to apply for a Historical Marker in honor of Mr. Edward Peed.

Bobby Roberson explained the request is from the Human Relations Council. Chief Robbie Rose provided some background on the project noting that the application committee only meets in April and December of each year. Councilmember Mercer said the State will investigate the application so you need to apply now.

By motion of Councilman Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council approved the application for placement of a Historical Marker for Edward Peed in close proximity to the intersection of West Main & Stewart Parkway.

Ray Midgett presented a brief history of the fire. He also presented a 1901 insurance map which was published about 6 months before the fire as well as a current Google map with the 1901 map overlay, in order to give Council an idea of where the fire occurred.



ANY OTHER ITEMS FROM CITY MANAGER:
DISCUSSION – BICENTENNIAL COINS

Matt Rauschenbach explained that the City purchased silver and bronze Bicentennial coins in 1976. We currently have approximately 1100 silver coins and 800 brass coins. The current value of the silver coin is \$16 and the brass coins approximately \$1 or less.

Bobby Roberson suggested selling the silver coins for \$20 and brass for \$1 in the Customer Service lobby area. Councilmember Mercer suggested selling the silver for \$15 instead of \$20. Mr. Roberson also suggested that the coins be offered to City employees first, then to the general public.

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council authorized the City Manager to offer for sale the silver bicentennial coins for \$15 and the bronze bicentennial coins for \$1 with City employees having first opportunity to purchase.

Mayor Pro tem Finnerty asked if there would be a limit on the number of coins an individual would be allowed to purchase. Mr. Roberson explained that an ad would run in the newspaper outlining the specifics of sale of the coins. *Ad below will be published in the newspaper.



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

CLOSED SESSION: UNDER NCGS § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE; (A)(6) PERSONNEL; (A)(1) DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION; 159B-38 CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONTRACT DISCUSSIONS; 143-318.10(E) PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council entered into closed session under NCGS § 143-318.11(A)(3) Attorney/Client Privilege; (A)(6) Personnel; (A)(1) Disclosure of Confidential Information; 159B-38 Confidentiality of Contract Discussions; 143-318.10(E) Public Records Act at 7:05pm.

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council agreed to come out of closed session at 8:20pm.

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Finnerty, Council instructed the City Manager to deliver a message to the Beaufort County Manager that Beaufort County shall provide all EMS services within the City of Washington effective July 1, 2016.

ADJOURN

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm until April 9, 2016 at 8:30am at Washington-Warren Airport for a retreat.

Cynthia S. Bennett, MMC
City Clerk