**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014 AT 6 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor John M. “Jay” Donecker

 Mayor Pro Tem Harry L. Brown

 Councilman Tom Balsley

 Councilman Donald L. Gorham

 Councilman William Hairston

 Councilman Clark Turner

 Councilwoman Sherri G. Walker

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Michael J. Pearce, City Manager

Angela G. Stadler, CMC, City Clerk

 William F. McLeod Jr., City Attorney

 Tom Wiggins, Assistant City Manager of Community Services

 Kevin Eason, Public Works Director

 David Bracken, Fire Chief

 Robert Hassell, Police Chief

 Nick Aceves, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION.**

Major Leona O’Bryant of the Salvation Army of Rockingham County, 704 Barnes Street, Reidsville, provided the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Council members led in the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

Mayor Donecker asked if there were any items on the Consent Agenda that needed to be considered separately?

**Councilman Gorham then made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND THE NOVEMBER 25, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the November 12, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes, the November 12, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes and the November 25, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF A BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 7 TO ALLOCATE $25,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE TO THE GOVERNING BOARD BUDGET FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE RECRUITMENT OF A NEW CITY MANAGER.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 7 as follows:

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 7**

 **WHEREAS,** the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville adopted a budget ordinance on June 4, 2014 which established revenues and authorized expenditures for fiscal year 2014-2015; and

 **WHEREAS,** since the time of the adoption of said ordinance, it has become necessary to make certain changes in the City's budget to appropriate funds for the City Manager recruitment process;

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED,** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville that the budget ordinance as adopted on June 4, 2014 is hereby amended as follows;

**Section 1.**  That revenue account number 10-3991-0000, Appropriated Fund Balance, be increased by $25,000.00.

**Section 2.** That expense account number 10-4110-2611, Recruitment, be increased by $25,000.00.

This the 9th day of December, 2014.

 /s/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 John M. “Jay” Donecker

 Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

 City Clerk

**- End of Consent Agenda -**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO REZONE 502 AND 504 MAPLE AVENUE, SPECIFICALLY COUNTY TAX NO. 8904-06-28-9686, FROM RESIDENTIAL-6 TO OFFICE & INSTITUTIONAL.**

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Donna Setliff noted that the applicant, Barbara Moore on behalf of Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital/Annie Penn, is requesting that 502 and 504 Maple Avenue be rezoned from Residential-6 to Office & Institutional. The surrounding area is primarily O&I with R-6 abutting the O&I, she said.

A dwelling exists on 502 Maple Avenue, which is the last street in the Old Post Road Historic District, she reported. The City’s Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the request and unanimously recommended approval. While 502 Maple is the last parcel in the district, 504 Maple Avenue is a vacant lot just outside the district, she said.

Setliff stated that the property is within the Central Growth Area as shown in the Growth Management section of the City’s Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the Development Objective to expand this area as a retail, office and employment center in Reidsville. The rezoning is also consistent with the following Implementation Strategies: Strategy 4-7, Develop a strong small business environment in Reidsville; Strategy 7-8; Use land use ordinances to direct, control, and promote orderly growth in and around the City.

The Community Development Manager noted that West Harrison Street has experienced a rezoning of the properties to a variety of commercial zones. Between South Main Street and just west of Gardner Street, the properties have been rezoned to O&I. She added that the City has little need of undeveloped O&I-zoned land as most of the O&I land is developed and occupied. O&I, she stated, is a good transition between residential and other commercial zones. Permitted uses are usually quiet offices and the setbacks are larger, she said. Setliff added that staff recommends approval of the request.

Setliff then noted that the Planning Board unanimously recommended that the property be rezoned. She said the motion stated that the rezoning was reasonable, in the public’s interest and consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan, and the Planning Board adopted Staff’s Report as its consistency statement. She also pointed out that she had included a suggested Council motion in the packet.

Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. by asking if there was anyone who wished to speak in favor of the rezoning.

Barbara Moore of Blue Sky Realty came forward representing Annie Penn Cone Health Systems and making the request to rezone the properties from R-12 to O&I. She said she had given this much thought and consideration and saw no reason why this would hurt the City of Reidsville or its residents. It would also be of great benefit to the hospital in expanding their campus, she said, adding that the land directly across the street was recently rezoned to O&I as well as the surrounding area. She stressed that it was a grand, wonderful home with an upper porch but today you wouldn’t be able to sit out on the porch and hear because of the traffic. She reiterated that the best use of the property is to expand the hospital.

Councilman Balsley asked if it was the Goodman house? Moore replied in the affirmative. It was noted that the rezoning is for future development and that there is no specific plans for the property at this time.

No one spoke against the rezoning, and the public hearing was closed at 6:10 p.m.

**Councilman Hairston then read the suggested motion: Based on the information provided in the staff report and verbal evidence presented during the public hearing, this request is reasonable, in the public interest and consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan and other adopted land use plans. Therefore, I make the motion that the rezoning be approved, which was seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote.**

**DISCUSSION ON SPEED HUMPS.**

In making the staff report, City Manager Pearce noted that from time to time, the City receives requests for speed humps, most recently on Sherwood Drive. City Council has had a moratorium on speed humps since 1999, but he referenced a memo from former City Manager Kelly Almond on the three approaches to the speed hump issue, which are outlined in Public Works Director Kevin Eason’s memo. (A COPY OF EASON’S MEMO DATED DECEMBER 2, 2014 IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

The three approaches cited by Almond at the time were:

1) a reactive policy with requests made for speed humps and guidelines established to determine if they should go in a particular place.

2) a thoroughfare planning process done every 20 years or so when streets are identified for such devices and a process is established for putting them in.

3) continue the moratorium.

Pearce noted that in 1999, Council decided to go with the moratorium because they felt there was no overwhelming need to continue to do such speed humps in the City. He added that they preferred not to look at isolated incidents without some type of procedure or guidelines. He said he preferred to look at the entire City so that Council could use that as a reference when making these determinations. He noted that Police Chief Hassell and Public Works Director Eason are here to answer any questions if needed.

The City Manager stressed that speed humps affect not only those streets where they are put but also the streets around it. He expressed concern about transferring a problem to another street as well as the negative impact on City equipment such as snow plows, etc. Pearce also noted the potential impact on the City’s budget since the standard cost of installation is about $4,100 per speed hump. He added that we have to take into account storm drainage, etc., which may make the speed humps cost even more.

Pearce said he wanted to bring the issue to Council’s attention. He asked Council for direction on whether they’d like staff to establish a set of guidelines or if there is a general direction Council would like staff to go in. He noted it will take several months to establish exact guidelines for Council to consider. He said Council could give feedback to staff at its retreat, adding that the issue is a lot more complicated than it appears on the surface.

Councilwoman Walker asked how many feet do you go before you put in a speed hump? Eason said that 400-600 feet is the recommended distance, 1-2 per block. On a long street like Ballymena, it could have eight speed humps on it, which would cost about $42,000, the Public Works Director said. He added that the speed humps usually are replaced every seven years, which means it would cost another $42,000 for replacements. Eason said such humps will impact the City’s snow removal and could damage our snow plows. Curb and gutter is another issue that must be considered, it was noted.

There was a discussion about permanent versus temporary. Eason said speed humps are difficult to form out of asphalt so they are often made out of rubber and bolted into the pavement. Such humps are only “temporary” in terms of being able to bolt them down and then take them up again. He said it takes a couple of days to put one in and when they are taken out, the street has to be repaired. City Manager Pearce said when you look at them at the trade shows, you see that it is not as attractive an option in terms of transferability. It is not easy to move them, he said.

Councilman Gorham asked about the effect of slowing down emergency vehicles. Fire Chief David Bracken said his trucks know to slow down for the humps and it could make a few seconds’ difference. He said his drivers need to know their territories. Councilman Gorham questioned whether the movement of water over the humps could flood someone’s basement. Eason said he was more concerned about the transport of patients than flooding issues.

Councilman Gorham pointed out that there are very long streets in the Cambridge community with a lot of veins out there. He said if you put them on one street, people on the other streets will want them so you could be looking at quite a bit of money in that area alone.

Mayor Donecker noted the need for clarification. He stated that what is needed from Council is to help set up the criteria. Ballymena doesn’t meet the criteria, for example, he said. What started this conversation was Sherwood, he stated, saying he didn’t want Council to forget that. He discussed the history of the other speed humps in the City. Irvin Street is more of an example of what could be done, the Mayor said. He added that he would hate for us not to address a real safety issue because we are afraid to tell someone else no. The City Manager is trying to get us to look at these guidelines, he said. The Mayor said we need to have some kind of answer for Sherwood Drive, adding “enough is enough.” He said the Council should be not be afraid to tell people no. Ultimately wherever they are used will slow down traffic, he said.

Councilman Gorham said he was not afraid of anything we might encounter. He said we want to bring light to the situation at Sherwood, intensifying the patrol in that area. Police Chief Hassell said that yes, that is possible, but when they have been out there based on complaints, the officers haven’t seen any speeding or traffic violations. Councilman Gorham asked resident Phil Gardner if the situation is worse in the early mornings? Gardner said it is bad all the time but worse in the mornings and afternoons after school. He added that traffic gets up to 40 to 50 mph and they are at top speed beside his driveway.

Councilman Gorham said during 30 minutes, he saw 50-plus cars, only 6-7 of which actually stopped at the stop sign, not even coming to a rolling stop. The Sherwood Drive resident said it is not so much because of Freeway Drive but traffic has been bad since the new Sherwood was cut through. Gardner expressed concerns about people not being able to see and that somebody is going to get killed. He added that there should be a stoplight there.

Mr. Louis Wyatt, another resident of Sherwood, noted drivers don’t slow down and while the early morning and evening are the worst times, they get traffic there all the time.

Councilman Gorham, noting the Police Department doesn’t use as many officers for downtown events as they have in the past, asked if someone could be assigned to the neighborhood, even if we have to pay overtime. The officer could just write tickets, even if someone is only going 26 mph in a 25-mph zone, the Councilman stated. The officer can give a warning, but we would need to be consistent. Councilman Gorham said this could be done in intense situations, adding that we need to be transparent and notify Reidsville residents through targeted enforcement signs for use at certain locations throughout the City. Chief Hassell said these signs are used to warn drivers at each end of the street. Councilman Gorham said once the word gets out that tickets are being written, it will help.

Mr. Gardner said there is no place to hide a squad car on that short stretch of road. The speed limit sign is a warning sign, but it is a passive device. If you put caution flags out there, they don’t pay attention to them either, he asserted. He said the only thing that could be put there is a mechanical device that will slow the drivers down. He added that he doesn’t even want the City to scrape his street of snow because it takes so long for him to shovel the snow at the end of his drive.

City Manager Pearce said that if curbing speeding is your intent, you will need it on every street. Speeding might be one of the criteria but it is not the only thing that needs to be considered, he continued. People do stupid stuff on streets all the time, he stated. The Mayor said that doesn’t fly because there is speeding throughout the City. We are human beings, he noted, saying we need to make logical decisions that fit the circumstances and have the gumption to say it doesn’t make sense there. Pearce stressed that speeding should not be the only guideline.

Councilwoman Walker noted that nobody appears to stop at Sherwood, that it is a situation of let’s look and then go. While she said she doesn’t want to see speed humps all over the City, she acknowledged that this is a bad situation which has been going on for over 10 years.

Councilman Gorham said we should do “Operation Write a Ticket.” Chief Hassell said he could talk to staff today if that is what Council wants them to do. Mayor Donecker said this is important for them to do, but he noted that when you eventually pull the officers, it will happen again. He said it is characteristic of that short road, combined with a long road across the street. You never see people coming up and down Belmont, he asserted. He said he advocates getting guidelines in place and making decisions hopefully before someone gets hurt.

The Mayor asked if someone wanted to make a motion on the subject?

**Councilwoman Walker made the motion that we look further into this and come up with some guidelines for the future, developing a reactive policy as stated in the agenda packet. The motion was seconded by Councilman Balsley.**

Councilman Gorham said that not at any time was he drawing upon the notion that we don’t look at speed humps, but he was trying to avoid them because of damage to our streets, City equipment and personal equipment.

Mayor Donecker asked if we have any policy about paying for damage to vehicles on the current speed humps? Pearce said he is not aware of it. Mayor Pro Tem Brown said he believes we should establish a policy that would be consistent Citywide.

Councilman Turner stressed that streets are made to move traffic, not stop it. He said he was against speed humps.

Councilman Balsley said we should be open to exploring other options.

Councilman Gorham questioned the Mayor’s remarks about why we shouldn’t consider speed humps on Ballymena. He said the lives of those on Ballymena are no less important than those two families that live on Sherwood. Mayor Donecker clarified that is why we need to have a policy that is consistent and fair. The Mayor noted that Ballymena has a lot of cars traveling on a very long street, which is closer to a thoroughfare. He said he agreed with Clark that you shouldn’t have speed humps on a thoroughfare, but it still shows we need a policy.

**The motion then passed 5-2 with Councilmen Turner and Hairston voting in opposition.**

**CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY PARKS & RECREATION TO HOLD THE 2015 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION ON FRIDAY, JULY 3.**

City Manager Pearce noted that for the past several years, Council has agreed to hold the Independence Day celebration event at Lake Reidsville on July 3 and one time on July 2nd. It has been less expensive and hasn’t seemed to inhibit anyone’s enjoyment of the event, he said.

Referencing his memo, Assistant City Manager Tom Wiggins noted that the City has averaged about $6,000 in savings annually, both from the fireworks vendor and from the live bands charging less of a premium. (A COPY OF THE MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He said the City started holding the event on other dates starting in 2011. The last couple of years people have said they like the different date so they can attend other events or do other things with their families on July 4th. Pearce noted that if Council goes ahead and approves the date, we can get the word out early. Wiggins said we can also start planning with the fireworks and getting a quality band.

**Councilman Turner then made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to hold the City’s Independence Day celebration on July 3rd.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Mr. Louis Wyatt of 1113 Sherwood Drive came forward. He thanked Council for considering a speed hump on his street and even coming up with criteria.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT.**

Referencing his written report, City Manager Pearce said he’d like to report that the plans for the Senior Center are out to bid with the bid opening being on Thursday, January 8, at 2:30 p.m. At least three bidders are needed, he said, but it is a very attractive job and an excellent time to be bidding something out. (A COPY OF THE WRITTEN REPORT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Mayor Donecker said he hoped someone passed on to architect Tom Moreau what a good job he did last month.

**BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

City Manager Pearce distributed the ballots for board and commission appointments.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORTS.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Brown** – The Mayor Pro Tem noted he attended the market dedication ceremony for First Baptist Church, along with Council members Gorham, Walker and Hairston and City Manager Pearce. He said the marker looks very good, and the church was very appreciative. He said he also attended the ribbon cutting for Favorite Finds and attended the Senior Citizens dinner at the Golden Corral. He said he was afraid to attend the seniors’ dinner because of questions about the Senior Center, but he is looking forward to telling them the good news. He said he has heard good response from citizens on the renovations at the Rec Center. He said participation is being up, and people are proud of the renovations.

**Councilman Balsley** – The Councilman said on Saturday, he took part in the Kids with Santa celebration the Chamber held at Sagebrush. He thanked Sagebrush and complimented Diane Sawyer of the Chamber for holding the event. He invited Sawyer to talk about upcoming Chamber events: Noting attendance has been down at the ribbon cuttings, Sawyer said the next one is December 12th at noon at UMAR Arts in downtown Reidsville; the Countywide Coffee at Rockingham Community College on Jan. 14 will also be an opportunity to meet the new President; nominations for the Chamber’s annual awards luncheon will be needed in a few short weeks for Small Business, Corporation, etc.; the Dr. Martin Luther King breakfast will be 8 a.m. on January 19 with tickets on sale at the Chamber, through the Human Relations Commission and the Reidsville Branch of the NAACP. Sawyer also said the Chamber hopes to be in its new building on January 5th but things have been a little uncertain with the death of the building owner Brian Greer’s father. She added that they have also talked with the Tourism Development Authority’s Robin Yount about partnering for different events.

**Councilman Hairston** – The Councilman said his month sounded pretty much the same as Mayor Pro Tem Brown’s. He noted he attended First Baptist Church’s marker dedication, the Christmas tree lighting and had heard positive comments about the Rec Center.

**Councilman Turner** – The Councilman said that last Friday, he attended the Christmas tree lighting which was not as well attended because of the weather. He said there was no snow this year like we’ve had the past two years but we hope to get snow lined up for next year. It was a festive occasion with hayrides, hot apple cider, marshmallows and more.

**Councilman Gorham** – The Councilman said he attended the Favorite Finds ribbon cutting, the Galilee Holiness Church’s coat and hat giveaway, the Christmas Parade on November 22nd where he rode in a Mustang 5.0; the November 23rd Thanksgiving integrated church service where his pastor was the speaker; on November 25th, the special Council meeting, the RDC meeting and the Reidsville Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting; and the December 5th Christmas tree lighting.

**Councilwoman Walker** – The Councilwoman said she had a busy month, including the economic development meeting at Rockingham Community College on November 11th which discussed the past and future growth of Rockingham County. She noted that Gloria Pegram has resigned from the Appearance Commission and thanked her for her work. She said she attended the Christmas Parade along with Councilman Gorham and Mayor Pro Tem Brown and rode with a double amputee from the Vietnam War. She said she had five “dates” for the day but due to the weather, her WWII veterans cancelled on her.

**Mayor Donecker** – The Mayor explained that he had submitted to the Clerk his report from the sessions he attended at the National League of Cities meeting in Austin attended by himself, Councilmen Turner, Hairston, and Balsley. (A COPY OF THE REPORT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He noted the conference was very enlightening, and they heard some very good ideas and realized that there are other cities facing the same kinds of problems we have here.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS.**

City Clerk Angela G. Stadler read the following unanimous appointments (A COPY OF THE BALLOTS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.):

**Reidsville Firemen’s Relief Fund Board – Bobby W. Powell of 642 King Street was appointed to a seventh term.**

**Reidsville Human Relations Commission – Jacquita Alexander of 502 Wray Street was appointed to the Commission.**

Mayor Donecker said there would be a five-minute recess to move to the first-floor conference room, and everyone is invited to attend the presentation by the Police Department.

Councilman Turner said there were five people attending the meeting tonight who were not City employees.

**PRESENTATION BY POLICE CHIEF ROBERT HASSELL ON THE REORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

City Manager Pearce noted that former Police Chief Charlie Dennis had offered some reorganization plans for his department because of the changes brought about by the Countywide 911 system. He said he had been encouraged by Chief Hassell’s plan, adding that something needs to be done because of the telecommunicator positions which will be leaving us. Chief Hassell is taking the plan a step further, but Pearce noted that no Council action is needed to put this plan into place.

Chief Hassell then went through the PowerPoint presentation outlining the departmental changes.

Why the change? Chief Hassell asked. He listed four reasons: increasing accountability; fundamentally changing the way public safety services are delivered; strengthening community relationships; and improving morale among the department’s 49 officers. He also stressed the need for more open communication throughout the department and with the community. He noted that officers will attend Community Watch meetings in their patrol zones. (A COPY OF THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Among the organizational changes noted:

* Increasing number of Patrol Commanders (Lieutenants) from two to four.
* Eliminating four Lead Officer positions on patrol
* Consolidating Special Investigations and Criminal Investigations under one Lieutenant.
* Creating a Support Services Division, including records, evidence management, animal control, information and technology and building maintenance to the Office of the Chief under the Administrative Lieutenant.
* Creating two new positions – Support Services Supervisor and Crime Analyst.
* Eliminating one Police Lt. position by not filling vacant position in Special Investigations Unit.
* Re-classifying Captain Position to rank of Major, thereby creating a more vertical command structure.
* Committee is reviewing the four patrol zones, which have been unchanged for more than 20 years.

Chief Hassell then showed the motivational video, “212 the extra degree,” which will be shown to all of his command staff.

Councilman Hairston said he applauded him and felt he was going down the right path. He said some of the key things the Chief had brought up were very important to the officers. Considering the things going on in Ferguson, etc., the Councilman said he felt it was good they are interacting with the public to prevent similar type situations. He said he liked that the Chief is continuing the programs we already have while adding others and reaching out in new ways, such as Facebook, etc. to get safety tips out to the public.

Councilwoman Walker said she was completely satisfied with the 49 sworn officers, especially with the cost savings realized by the restructuring. She noted he was also hired to get youth involved since that is one of the things the Chief is interested in, to get to them while they’re young. Chief Hassell said that is also true in recruiting, noting he was recruited for police work when he was young. Discussion ensued about getting kids interested when they’re young and offering programs like ride-alongs or police explorers.

Councilman Gorham said he likes that Chief Hassell is involving the officers, showing them where the accountability comes from and that they are part of the process, getting their ideas. In being part of it and building it, they are part of the communities they serve and held accountable throughout the process.

City Manager Pearce said he wanted Council to hear this and to get the message out to the community of the innovations Chief Hassell is bringing to Reidsville. Chief noted that they won’t have total agreement on these changes, but it is a collaboration – this is what we can do and this is what you need to do to help us.

Discussion turned to the idea of officers attending the Community Watch meetings in their zones. Councilman Hairston said he thought attending such meetings is critical for the officers. The Mayor asked how do you account for court schedules? Chief Hassell said the officers will still go once a month. They will try to get them scheduled on their days off. They will get paid overtime and wear a shirt and tie and if they are on duty, they will be in uniform.

Councilman Hairston asked if improvements could be made with the department’s phone tree. Chief Hassell said that he has a committee looking at the wording on some of the voice prompts, which currently are confusing. He noted they are also looking into sending the calls to someone on duty. He said they would be looking at that to make it easier for citizens to get what they need within the department.

City Manager Pearce briefly noted the interior renovations and the renovations to the police building’s back wall. Three new offices will be created. The changes should be completed within the next week or two.

**MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION.**

Mayor Donecker noted the need to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter.

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to go into closed session.**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.**

**Upon return from closed session, Councilman Balsley made the motion to hire David Bracken as Interim City Manager beginning February 1 with a salary of $100,000 (pro-rated for the year) and an automobile allowance of $300 a month until we are able to hire a new City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gorham and approved in a 7-0 vote by Council.**

**MOTION TO CHANGE JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING DATE.**

Mayor Donecker, noting he will be in Dallas on the 14th of January, asked if the Council could meet on January 21, 2015.

**It was the consensus of Council to move the Council meeting to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2015.**

**Councilman Gorham then made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to adjourn at approximately 8:09 p.m.**

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John M. “Jay” Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk