**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 AT 3 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:** Chris Phillips, Assistant City Manager of Administration (*City Manager Michael J. Pearce was absent due to the passing of his mother.*)

 Angela G. Stadler, CMC, City Clerk

 William F. McLeod Jr., City Attorney

 Donna Setliff, Community Development Manager

 Tom Wiggins, Assistant City Manager of Community Services

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION.**

He asked the Reverend Doug McLeroy, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Main Street, Reidsville, to provide the invocation.

Councilwoman Walker then asked Rev. McLeroy to talk about the Holy Week Services. He noted that a program with devotionals and luncheon will be held at various churches throughout the week beginning Monday at noon at First Presbyterian.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

Mayor Donecker asked for a moment of silence to be held in memory of former Rockingham County Commissioner Clarence “Tuck” Tucker.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Council members then led in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS:**

**RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY BAPTIST SCHOOL’S VARSITY MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS AFTER WINNING THE 2014 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETICS DIVISION V CHAMPIONSHIP.**

Mayor Donecker called the Community Baptist Varsity Men’s Basketball Team forward to accept the proclamation recognizing them for winning the 2014 National Association of Christian Athletics Division V Championship. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Head Coach Anthony Carter told Council he was glad to be a part of it and commended the Council for having them here. Councilman Turner noted that Coach Carter does it for the love of the sport and doesn’t have a kid in the school system. Mayor Pro Tem Brown said he has known Coach Carter and his family all his life and was very proud of him. Mayor Donecker said he is a good product of the rec program.

**RECOGNITION OF THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMITTEE OF 100’S COUNTYWIDE FOOD DRIVE MARCH 29-MAY 3, 2014.**

Mayor Donecker then presented a proclamation in recognition of a countywide food drive, which he presented to Committee member Ann Fish. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

In accepting the proclamation, Fish noted that the food drive has a 40,000-pound goal this year for the eight agencies it supports. She noted that they have twice as many people asking for food than they have ever had. She talked of the need for community and church involvement. She also said she hoped everyone will participate and give food.

**RECOGNITION OF THE CITY’S WASTEWATER AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT STAFF FOR ACHIEVING 100% OPERATIONAL COMPLIANCE IN 2013.**

**Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

In recognition of the Wastewater Treatment Plant reaching 100% operational compliance in 2013, the Mayor read a proclamation accepted by Public Works Director Kevin Eason, plant superintendent Mike Burleson, lab superintendent Mitzy Fain, chief mechanic Ricky Fain, and pretreatment specialist Ralph Potter Jr. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Mayor Donecker also presented them with a plaque. The Mayor noted that without “you guys, it doesn’t work”. He said he was glad they were working for the City again. He added that they are the “unsung heroes” because without adequate sewer and clean water, we can’t attract industries or run this City. Burleson said this award is significant to them, something that is achieved once in a while, but it is sweeter today to receive this recognition as a part of the City.

**Recognition of Water Treatment Plant.**

Mayor Donecker then presented Scott Jewell with a similar proclamation for the Water Treatment Plant, which also reached 100% operational compliance in 2013. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Mayor Donecker also presented him with a plaque. Jewell introduced himself as the new superintendent of the Water Treatment Plant here in Reidsville and said he was accepting this proclamation on behalf of his employees. He said Reidsville has had a problem with brown water, but they were going to get rid of that image and provide a great source of drinking water to the residents.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Mayor Donecker asked if there were any items Council members wanted to be pulled out individually? None were offered.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 -- APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 12, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the March 12, 2014 regular meeting minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 -- APPROVAL OF THE ABC BOARD’S TRAVEL POLICY AS REQUIRED ANNUALLY BY GENERAL STATUTES.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the ABC Board’s Travel Policy as the appointing authority as required by State Statutes. It was noted no changes have been made to the policy. (A COPY OF THE POLICY IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 -- APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO CLOSE AN UNOPENED PORTION OF ARBOR LANE RIGHT OF WAY WITH THE PUBLIC HEARING BEING SET FOR 3 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the following Resolution of Intent to close an unopened portion of Arbor Lane right of way that sets the public hearing for May 14:

**RESOLUTION OF INTENT**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE**

**CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CLOSING**

**AN UNOPENED PORTION OF**

**ARBOR LANE RIGHT OF WAY**

**WHEREAS**, G.S. 160A-299 authorizes the City Council to close public streets and alleys; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council considers it advisable to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of giving consideration to close an unopened portion of Arbor Lane Right of Way.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council that:

1. A public hearing will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, in City Hall Council Chambers, 230 West Morehead Street, to consider a resolution to close an unopened portion of Arbor Lane right of way. The right of way is approximately 200 feet long and is approximately 50 feet wide and is further described as:

Beginning at a point in the eastern right-of-way of Belmont Drive at its intersection with the northern right-of-way of Arbor Lane (unopened), said point being the southwest corner of Lot 3, Block T of Addition to Belmont, (Plat recorded in Map Book 8, Page 83 in the Rockingham County Register of Deeds), thence southeasterly with the northern right-of-way of said street S 64 deg. 30 min. E 200 feet more or less to a point at the northeast corner of said street right-of-way, said point also being the southeast corner of Lot 3 in the aforementioned plat and a corner with Reidsville Christian Church (Deed Book 1235, Page 0535), thence southwesterly with the eastern end of said street right-of-way and the western property line of Reidsville Christian Church S 25 deg. 30 min. W 50 feet more or less to a point, said point being the southeast corner of said street right-of-way and the northeast corner of Lot 6, Block S of Addition to Belmont, thence northwesterly along the southern right-of-way of Arbor Lane (unopened) N 64 deg. 30 W 200 feet more or less to a point at its intersection with the eastern right-of-way of Belmont Drive, said point also being the northwest corner of Lot 6, Block S, thence northeasterly along the eastern right-of-way of Belmont Drive to the point of beginning and being all of that unopened portion of Arbor Lane which lies on the eastern side of Belmont Drive.

(2) The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Resolution of Intent once a week for four successive weeks in The Reidsville Review.

1. The City Clerk is further directed to transmit by registered or certified mail to each owner of property abutting upon that portion of said street a copy of this Resolution of Intent.

(4) The City Clerk is further directed to cause adequate notices of this Resolution of Intent and the scheduled public hearing to be posted as required by G.S. 160A-299.

This the 9th day of April, 2014.

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

 John M. “Jay” Donecker

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

 Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

 City Clerk

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 -- APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF 185 BRENTWOOD DRIVE AND PART OF PIN #7994-14-42-0996 LOCATED ON REID SCHOOL ROAD AND A RESOLUTION FIXING THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 3 P.M. ON MAY 14, 2014 AT REIDSVILLE CITY HALL.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the following documents, including the Resolution calling for the May 14th public hearing:

**A2014-1**

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK**

**TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED**

**UNDER G.S. 160A-31**

 **WHEREAS**, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on March 26, 2014 by the City Council of the City of Reidsville; and

 **WHEREAS**, G.S. 160A-31 provides that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the City Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

 **WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Reidsville deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation;

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Reidsville that:

 The City Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City Council the result of her investigation.

 This the 9th day of April, 2014.

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

 John M. “Jay” Donecker

 Mayor

ATTEST:

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

 Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

 City Clerk

**A2014-1**

**CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY**

 To the City Council of the City of Reidsville, North Carolina:

 I, Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk, do hereby certify that I have investigated the petition attached hereto and have found as a fact that said petition is signed by all owners of real property lying in the area described therein, in accordance with G.S. 160A-58.1.

 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Reidsville, this 2nd day of April, 2014.

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

 Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk

**A2014-1**

**RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**ON QUESTION OF ANNEXATION**

**PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31**

 **WHEREAS**, a petition requesting annexation of the contiguous area described herein has been received; and

 **WHEREAS**, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition; and

 **WHEREAS**, certification by the City Clerk as to the sufficiency of the petition has been made;

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Reidsville, North Carolina that:

 **Section 1.** A public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at Reidsville City Hall, 230 W. Morehead Street, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May, 14, 2014.

 **Section 2.** The area proposed for annexation is described as follows:

**TRACT 1**

Beginning at an existing iron pipe, being the south corner of Lot 3 as shown on the plat recorded in Plat Book 70, Page 90, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina; thence South 23° 34’ 49” East 25 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence North 89° 32’ 42” East 128.21 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence North 50° 33’ 52” East 9.1 feet to a point; thence North 55° 25’ 34” West 52.8725 feet along the existing corporate limits of the City of Reidsville to a point; thence North 54° 45’ 49” West 52.8779 feet along the existing corporate limits of the City of Reidsville to a point; thence South 52° 15’ 32” West 75.53 feet to the point and place of beginning; being that part of Lot 2 as shown on the plat recorded in Plat Book 70, Page 90 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, NC not within the corporate limits of the City of Reidsville; i.e. the part of Lot 2 that is more than 250 feet from the centerline of the 60-foot wide right-of-way for Reid School Road.

**TRACT 2**

Beginning at an existing iron pipe, being the south corner of Lot 3 as shown on the plat recorded in Plat Book 70, Page 90, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina; thence South 52° 15' 32" West 37.94 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence South 89° 33' 45" West 40.01 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence North 23° 34' 49" West 25 feet to the point and place of beginning; being the same as the “459.9 Sq. Ft. to be Combined” as shown on the plat recorded in Plat Book 70, Page 90 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina.

**TRACT 3**

Beginning at an existing iron pipe, being South 86° 23’ East 260.02 feet along the North line of lot 8 and the northern terminus of Brentwood Drive (60’ right-of-way), as measured from a stone at the northwest corner of such Lot 8, all as shown on the plat recorded in Book 12, Page 95, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina; thence along the east margin of the right-of-way for such Brentwood Drive, South 2° 50’ 50” West 134.60 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence curving to the left along the margin of the right-of-ways of Brentwood Drive and Lagardon Street with a chord bearing of South 42° 09’ 10” East 28.28 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence along the north margin of the right-of-way for Lagardon Street, South 87° 09’ 10” East 346.9 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence North 3° 22’ 20” East 149.65 feet to an existing iron pipe; thence North 86° 23’ West 368.3 feet to the point and place of beginning; being the same as Lots 15 and 16 as shown on the plat recorded in Plat Book 12, Page 95 of the Register of Deeds of Rockingham County, North Carolina.

 **Section 3.** Notice of the public hearing will be published in the Reidsville Review, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Reidsville, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing.

 This the 9th day of April, 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 REZONING ON THE EAST SIDE OF MONTGOMERY STREET ADJACENT TO THE GREENVIEW CEMETERY FROM RESIDENTIAL-12 TO RESIDENTIAL-6.**

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Donna Setliff noted the request involves a portion of a parcel on the east side of Montgomery Street, currently zoned Residential-12, which the property owner would like to change to Residential-6 to fix split zoning. If subdivided, the property doesn’t meet the street frontage requirements for R-12 so that is the applicant’s reason for selecting R-6, she explained. Development along Montgomery Street is also R-6, she said. Greenview Cemetery and properties to the east are R-12, Setliff continued, and there is light industry across the street. The proposed rezoning is supported by the City’s Comprehensive Plan, Setliff said, and encourages high and medium density housing development. Staff finds the proposed rezoning to be consistent as listed in the Findings, which she reviewed for Council members as follows:

The rezoning is consistent with the City’s Comprehensive Plan and is reasonable and in the public interest of the community in that:

1. The request corrects a split zone issue on this property.
2. The request is consistent with the Development Objectives outlined for the Urban Growth Area which this property is located.
3. The request is a continuation of the existing Residential-6 zoning.
4. The surrounding parcels consist of single family dwellings and a cemetery; the Residential-6 district is compatible with these surrounding uses and will not negatively impact adjacent property owners.

Setliff said she is recommending the rezoning to R-6, and the Planning Board unanimously adopted staff’s Statement of Consistency and the proposed rezoning. Noting that some of this information will be new to the Council, Setliff said that this will be the first Statement of Consistency presented to Council since it became required by State General Statutes. Both the Council and Planning Board must adopt a consistency statement, she said. Therefore, she has included in her memo a suggested City Council motion, which allows Council to adopt staff’s analysis report as its Consistency Statement. The suggested motion is as follows:

“Based on the information provided in the Staff’s Analysis 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 a motion the Staff’s Analysis Report is approved as our Consistency Statement and that the rezoning as presented is approved.”

If the rezoning is not recommended or given a negative vote, the Council would then need to word a consistency statement along those lines, the Community Development Manager said.

Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at 3:21 p.m. by asking if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the rezoning? No one came forward, and the public hearing was closed at 3:22 p.m.

**Councilman Hairston made the motion that the Staff’s Analysis Report be approved as our Consistency Statement and that the rezoning as presented be approved. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote.**

**CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY (CELL TOWER) OFF PECAN ROAD.**

Prior to the discussion, City Clerk Angela G. Stadler swore in the applicant, consultant and Community Development Manager Donna Setliff.

In making the staff report, Setliff said the applicant Thomas Johnson, on behalf of American Towers, is requesting a Special Use Permit to allow a 120’ telecommunications monopole tower on the back side of the property at 1725 Freeway Drive. The land involved is along Pecan Road and is zoned Highway Business to the east and north, she said. To the south and northwest is property zoned Residential Agricultural-20. Across the street is land that is Heavy Industrial.

Setliff noted that these applications are very complicated, and staff does not employ personnel with the expertise to review them. Therefore, George Condyles with Atlantic Technology Consultants was hired to review the application, she said. The company plans to lease 100x100 feet of property to put the tower on, which would be 500 feet away from any residence and be surrounded by an eight-foot chain fence, Setliff explained. The equipment will be on the bottom with a building built to house the equipment. This particular tower will be able to hold the antennas of up to six companies, she added.

In short, Setliff noted that staff has looked at the zoning aspect of it, and the application does meet the City’s requirements. It is up to the applicant to provide evidence that they meet the requirements, and if Council feels they have done so, you will need to go through and vote on each finding of fact, she said.

With any Special Use Permit, we can impose conditions, Setliff noted, and staff has suggested the following two: 1) Applicant shall comply with all provisions of the City of Reidsville Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the construction of the wireless telecommunication facility; and 2) The structure must meet all applicable NC Building and Fire Codes.

The Planning Board unanimously voted that the applicant met each of the four Findings of Fact and unanimously recommended the Special Use Permit and the conditions, Setliff concluded.

The applicant, Tom Johnson, attorney for American Towers, came forward. He said he was there requesting a Special Use Permit to allow a 120-foot monopole tower just off Pecan Road on Freeway Drive. He requested that the application and all associated documents be admitted into evidence in support of the application. (COPIES OF APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He said there is a lot of documentation to support the 120-foot monopole tower, and that the Planning Board as well as the consultant Mr. Condyles recommends it as well. He said some might ask why are we having more towers now when the technology has been around so long? The difference is consumer habits as more people are dropping their landline phones and want their cell phones to have a strong and reliable signal so they can get 911 in case of an emergency. He noted that 70% or more of all the calls made to 911 are made by wireless phones and that number is going up. He said secondly, we are using our wireless technology for data, to surf the internet, in not just smart phones but also in tablets, computers, etc. We need them to function adequately; therefore, we need a stronger signal and a stronger bandwidth, he continued. We need more towers to have an adequate signal. He noted that the technology is changing and improving over time as we go to 4G. Before long, we will have a 5G, he said. The site, he stated, is a wooded site with its entrance off of Pecan Road although the address may end up being on Freeway Drive. He showed a model Mr. Condyles provided of what the tower will look like, adding that it is typically one carrier per level although there can be a carrier using two levels, on a signal pole 120 feet high. He said it does not have to be lighted unless it exceeds 199 feet or is in close proximity to an airport. He said he would be happy to answer any questions.

There was a brief discussion about the Reidsville Airport on Warf Road in regards to the closeness to the tower. Setliff said as far as she knows, the airport is still operating. Mayor Donecker said he assumed the company is aware of that, which Mr. Johnson said they were. Since this is a federally licensed facility, they must get an environmental review, historic property impact reviews, any effects on Native American tribes, archeological finds, etc. Johnson said that there are some things that must be done as part of an environmental review. FAA approval is required near an airport, he said. The Mayor said he was not sure if there was any activity out there. Johnson said that at this height, there is usually no issue with air traffic. Mayor Donecker asked if this would be the tallest tower around here? Johnson said he thought there were some taller, if not in Reidsville, than in close proximity. He said there is a “big build” plan for Rockingham County, but the good news is there will be better service, at least for AT&T. Councilman Gorham asked if the strength of the signal varies from top to bottom of the platforms? Johnson said the higher platforms get better signal. He said the signal doesn’t go well through trees, which is why you tend to get better reception in the winter when the leaves are off the trees. Johnson noted that the towers are built for six carriers but questioned the effectiveness of the lower platforms when you get below tree height.

Mr. George Condyles, president of Atlantic Technology Consultants, Inc. based in Virginia, came forward. He said he was the City’s consultant and that he was here to assist their Planning staff and City Council on such telecommunications. He said he has been Rockingham County’s consultant on such matters for about 10 years and helped them design their radio system.

Condyles said he reviewed this application back in January. It is for a 120-foot monopole with placement on Pecan Road, on the side of a hill. From the access road, you go down a hill about 20-25 feet. He said 120 feet in the industry is known as a low profile tower. For some people, they may not even see it because of where it is located, he said, adding that this is an excellent location for it in regards to zoning and planning. American Tower is the tower owner and will derive its income from leasing the platforms on the tower. Based on the City’s population density, AT&T is the first co-applicant and others, such as Verizon, etc., will be coming right along, he said. The benefit of this tower is several things, he said. One will be the wireless E911, he said, discussing the GPS that comes up at the dispatch center will an emergency call is placed from a cell phone. Therefore, it will assist in your wireless 911 calls, he said. The other is wireless broadband, Condyles said, which will give people in the area more choices on how they will be able to access the internet, etc.

As Mr. Johnson said, the American Tower/AT&T application was very thorough, the consultant noted. He said his company issued the report on January 14, making recommendations for additional information, which was supplied. The supplemental report on March 11th confirmed the additional information received, he said. Condyles said he feels this tower has technical merit, is needed and would be an asset to the wireless networks in Reidsville. It has good positioning, the plan is well designed and well thought out, and he said he can recommend this tower to the Council. He said he would not go through his entire report, but the Council could get a copy of his report from the Planning department.

Councilman Gorham asked about concerns from citizens about health issues associated with the towers. Condyles noted that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 forbids a judicial body from taking that into effect, but he said he has addressed that in his report. There is a procedure in which the applicant and the co-locators must adhere to FCC requirements regarding signage. He said there are basically two types of radiation, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, and this is non-ionizing so basically it will have, in our opinion, no health effects on the population. He said he could speak at great length on exposure but that is included in his report, and the applicant has agreed to take all standard measures as required by the FCC in regards to this issue.

Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at 3:40 p.m. by asking if there was anyone to speak for or against the Special Use Permit. No one came forward, and the public hearing was closed at 3:41 p.m.

Council members then went through the four Findings of Fact:

1) that the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located where proposed and developed according to the plan as submitted and approved; -- **Approved 7-0**

2) that the use meets all required conditions and specifications; -- **Approved 7-0**

3) that the use will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property, or that the use is a public necessity; and, **-- Approved 7-0**

4) that the location and the character of the use if developed according to the plan as submitted and approved will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and in general conformity with the Comprehensive Plan for Reidsville and its surroundings. **– Approved 7-0**

**Councilman Turner made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to approve the Special Use Permit.**

**- End of Public Hearings -**

**CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR ITS WATER SYSTEM POLICY FOR CROSS-CONNECTION, BACKFLOW AND BACK-SIPHONAGE CONTROL.**

In making the staff report, Public Works Director Kevin Eason noted that the City has been working closely with residential and commercial customers on the City’s cross connection, backflow and back-siphonage control policy. He said that the revisions proposed today are basically a cleanup and will finalize the ordinance.

Eason went through the changes. In Section 10-112(f), the revision simplifies the measure of backflow protection. In Section 10-113(a)(3), originally a renewal permit was needed, and Councilman Turner had a made a motion to eliminate that fee, which was passed, but the change was never formally cleaned up in the ordinance. In Section 10-113(p), language was added to regulate the installation of double check valve assemblies, which means the boxes will be able to be in the ground and not be an above ground eyesore, he indicated.

Councilman Balsley asked if this is just for people who water their yards? Eason said on the residential side, this is for those who have in-ground irrigation systems. If you hand water your lawn, it is not required, he noted.

**Councilman Turner made the motion that we adopt these revisions to the City’s Code of Ordinances, which was seconded by Councilman Gorham.**

Both Mayor Donecker and Councilman Turner thanked Eason for the cleanup of the ordinances with no additional fees.

**The motion then passed in a 7-0 vote. (A COPY OF THE BACKFLOW ORDINANCE AS REVISED IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)**

**DISCUSSION REGARDING A PROACTIVE PROGRAM TO COMBAT NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME IN THE SUMMER MONTHS BY POLICE CHIEF CHARLIE DENNIS.**

In making the staff report, Police Chief Charlie Dennis noted that City Manager Pearce had asked him to come and speak today about taking a proactive stance against summertime crime. As temperatures rise, crime rises, which happens across the United States, he said. He reviewed statistics of police calls from 2012-2013, noting that calls for service rose about 1,800 calls from 2012 to 2013. There was a slight increase in violent crimes from 54 in 2013 compared to 53 in 2012 and overall total property crime rose from 813 in 2012 to 917 in 2013.

One of our major responsibilities as law enforcement officials, Chief Dennis asked, is how can we address crime? Reidsville is a great place to raise a family, and such calls are not unique to the City, he said. Chief said they would be utilizing a program that has been used in the past, “Operation Clean Sweep.” Referencing violent crimes, he noted that Project Safe Rockingham County has helped reduce violent crimes locally. This is a nationwide program, which is in its 2nd or 3rd year here in Rockingham County. He said it is a good program that he feels good about. It is one way of looking at these people committing these violent crimes, realizing that there may be reasons they act the way they do. If you’re willing to meet us halfway, we can help you. It could revolve around education, a lack of job training, community support, etc. The program partners with them, and our hope is that they will do that, the Police Chief said. He mentioned the organizations involved in the program. He also said they show these young people that we want to see them turn their lives around.

“Operation Clean Sweep” didn’t get done last summer because the department’s staffing levels were down 25%, Chief Dennis explained. The program involves Police Neighborhood Resource Officers, SROs (Student Resource Officers), traffic control, etc. He read aloud a summary noting that the operation will begin June 16 and will involve several City departments. The operation is designed to improve the quality of life for Reidsville residents and solve neighborhood problems that can lead to crime. The operation will also use license checkpoints throughout the City, gang prevention, speeding enforcement, etc. The department will do six phases of the program over a two-month basis and will partner with the media to advertise the operation, he said. The department will also put people on notice that this will be happening. Phase 1 will be the Pennsylvania Avenue, East Morehead Street, Townes Street area, he said, with the order of the phases based on calls for service and from Community Watch and the number of shots fired calls in that area. Phase 2 will be the Branch Street/Church Street/Holderby Street area; Phase 3 will be Graves, Sprinkle, Courtland, Summit Avenue, Amos Street and Park Lane area due to shots fired and drug activity. Phase 4 will be Circle Drive, Roach Street, Washington Avenue, Madison Street area based on shots fire and gang-related activity, he continued. Phase 5 will be Marcellus Street, Lindsey Street, Vance Street area due to increases in gang-related activity.

Chief Dennis explained how the program would be staffed, including use of the street crimes unit and adjustment of officers’ schedules. Warrant roundups will also be done. Captain Ronnie Ellison is over the Patrol and Community Policing divisions, Chief noted, and Community Policing will head up “Operation Clean Sweep”.

Captain Ellison stated that “Operation Clean Sweep” is an excellent program, in which officers go door to door and ask if anything is going on in the neighborhood. Citizens are told what they report is completely confidential. When it started in 2007, they received some complaints, but then they started receiving calls about how great it was, the Captain said. It builds a connection between the community, the Police Department and the Sanitation Department, he continued. He added that if citizens don’t have the time or resources to meet compliance, they can get an extension. He noted that they will also address things like dogs, etc., and that it is all about the health and welfare of the community.

There was a brief discussion about what Phase 6 would be. Chief Dennis said that would include Amos Street and the Racetrack community.

Chief Dennis said the most important thing is the “face to face” contact and getting into the neighborhoods. If we can communicate, we can more clearly learn what those issues are, whether they are high weeds, junked vehicles, etc., the Chief stated. He referenced the “broken windows” theory where neighborhoods deteriorate as houses deteriorate one by one. If we can partner together, we can have a positive effect, he asserted.

Chief said his department has worked with Parks & Recreation on the Midnight Madness basketball program and supported that program. He said sometimes crime can be attributed to kids being out of school for the summer. He also cited the Public Stuff app where citizens can report streetlights out, etc., from the comfort and privacy of their own home. Staff can get this information via email and correct some of those things, thereby affecting those areas through better street lighting, etc., he said.

Councilman Turner said it sounds like a great program and commended the department for coming up with it. Mayor Donecker suggested it be used in radio spots and information on it can be passed out in the neighborhoods. Assistant City Manager Phillips noted that with the Public Stuff app, citizens can enter a complaint anonymously because sometimes they don’t want to be identified.

Councilman Gorham said this is a tremendous program. In the past, the problem has been with the follow-up, he said. He stressed that personnel needs to be available for this program and have Council support. He again noted that follow-up with make it more effective. Mayor Donecker asked what kind of follow-up? Councilman Gorham said the Police Department needs to follow up on the junked vehicles, etc. because not everyone is going to take care of it. Phillips said he and City Manager Pearce can help make sure the follow-up is done.

The program will be done late July through mid-August. Community Development will be working with the Police Department on some of the complaints. Chief Dennis agreed that follow-up is important and again stressed that his department is willing to give extensions. Councilman Gorham said there may be some complaints about the program, but we have to live through these complaints. Mayor Donecker said that “forewarned is forearmed.”

**CONSIDERATION OF A CONDEMNATION AT 117 ARLINGTON STREET.**

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Donna Setliff said she is requesting permission to demolish 117 Arlington Street. A complaint was received through the City Manager, and inspectors found numerous violations, she said. A title search was done which showed the property owners to be Benjamin and Anahi Montero with no lienholders, Setliff continued. The certified mail sent to the Montero house was sent back unclaimed, but the property owners did show up on October 17, 2013 for the Minimum Housing Code Hearing, she said. Mr. Montero did say he wanted to repair the property but no evidence was presented, Setliff noted. The Code Enforcement Order expired on January 31, 2014. She explained that this was an order to demolish because the estimated cost of repairs ($18,000) exceeded 50% of the value of the dwelling listed at $18,499 by the Rockingham County Tax Office.

The Community Development Manager stated that on March 5, an electrical permit was pulled. An electrical inspection was done, and it passed, she noted. The building is still gutted, and there is no plumbing, she said. Our Code Enforcement Officer said it doesn’t comply with building codes, and nothing has been pulled for that work, she added. The owner called in yesterday for an insulation inspection, Setliff said, but there were no proper permits so it did fail inspection. Partial taxes are owed for 2012 and 2013, she noted, totaling about $300. The building is unoccupied, she said. Setliff stated that the packet includes the original inspection findings, along with pictures of the property and the ordinance to demolish. A letter was mailed to the property owners, and Mr. Montero told staff he would be here today, she said.

Councilwoman Walker asked Setliff if something had been done to the foundation of the house since these pictures were taken? Setliff said yes, but it was added that the foundation did not pass inspection.

Councilman Turner said this has been going on for a long time. He noted that this property sits next to the Reidsville Soup Kitchen.

**Councilman Turner made the motion to cause the demolition with the motion being seconded by Councilman Balsley.**

Mr. Benjamin Montero of 190 Spring Road, Reidsville, came forward. He said that she (Setliff) said nothing has been done to the house. It was noted that the electrical has been passed, but the insulation has not passed. Why do I have to have a permit, he asked. Mayor Donecker told Mr. Montero that the foundation does not comply with building codes even though the electrical rough in has been done. Mr. Montero said he has to get someone to do the plumbing and get a price to do the job. The Mayor asked how long has this been going on? Setliff said the hearing was held in October of last year. Mr. Montero said he has only had the house a couple of years. Councilman Balsley said it has been six months and the building hasn’t been repaired. He asked Mr. Montero what he proposed to do going forward? Mr. Montero said he needs a check list, adding that the foundation is already complete. Councilman Turner said this house has looked like this for several years, and there was a dog tethered there. Residents are afraid to go to the Soup Kitchen because of the dilapidated state and the dogs there, he said.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked Setliff if there is a safety concern here? Setliff said because the foundation does not meet building codes, yes, that would be a safety concern.

Mayor Donecker asked Mr. Montero if there is anything else he’d like to say? Mr. Montero said he doesn’t know about it two years prior. When he bought the home, he (the previous owner) didn’t tell him about the house being condemned. Councilman Balsley asked Mr. Montero how long had he had the house? Two years, Mr. Montero said.

The Mayor said there has been an outstanding property tax bill for two years. According to the tax records, partial payments were made on 2012 and 2013, leaving a total of a little over $300, he said. Mr. Montero said he went back to Wentworth. The value of the home was $26,000 and is now $15,000 so he only owes about $300, he said. Mr. Montero said he would like to keep the house and fix it.

Mayor Donecker, noting there seems to be a “bit of a disconnect here,” said that Mr. Montero has a house and has improved the foundation, but this is not a permitted improvement which doesn’t match Code. The Mayor told Mr. Montero that he inappropriately repaired the foundation, which is a concern for safety. He added that the house has not been improved on for a year or two and is in an area that hasn’t been improved. No one can live in it, he said. Councilman Balsley said that six months ago, they needed to fix it up.

Mr. Montero said he put new windows in. The Mayor asked when he put the new windows in, and the property owner said he thought it was in September or October. Mr. Montero asked why does he need a permit if it is just a repair? The Mayor again said he thinks there is a misunderstanding about what kind of work needs to be done.

Councilman Gorham asked with an inappropriate foundation, are we putting ourselves in a liability issue? If the City did an extension, would we be putting ourselves in a liability issue, he asked. City Attorney Bill McLeod Jr. said it would be the property owners who would be liable to maintain the safety of the population from potentially dangerous structures. The Attorney noted that the foundation doesn’t meet Code and not a lot of work has been done on the property. He said he believed he had checked on this title under a different owner. These problems haven’t happened overnight, he said, adding it has been a problem for quite some time.

Councilman Gorham said there seems to be a misunderstanding on what is needed to be done. Setliff explained that during the Code Enforcement Hearing, they are explained. Mr. Montero indicated again that he wants to keep working on the property and asked for a paper telling him what needs to be fixed. He said the windows and the foundation, all of this has been done. He said he was going to put the sheetrock on it. Mr. Montero said he was told he needs a building permit.

Councilwoman Walker said that during the meeting, Mr. Montero said he planned to repair the structure in October. A letter was sent out in October and now it’s April, it doesn’t seem like a lot has been done, the Councilwoman said. Mr. Montero said again that he was ready to put the sheetrock on and that he thought a lot has been done.

Mayor Donecker said there is a lot of instability in the building, the plumbing and wiring have been removed, it goes on and on. He said that it seems that insulation on an unsafe foundation is a waste of time, and Mr. Montero is not doing a service to the community. The Mayor said that these repairs are not getting to the essence of the problem. The Mayor said he hasn’t heard Mr. Montero say once that he has addressed the strengthening of the foundation. The repairs that you have done do not comply with our ordinances, the Mayor told Mr. Montero, and speaks to the unsafe conditions of this house. He agreed with Councilman Turner that this house has been deteriorating or decaying in front of our eyes. Councilman Balsley said the house is being held up “by a hope and a prayer.” If the foundation was up to Code, you might have something to stand on, figuratively and literally, Councilman Balsley said. It hasn’t just been the last six months, but Mr. Montero has had the property for two years, he continued. Again, the Councilman said that the property is not up to Code and there is no evidence of any progress being made. If we were to give you six months, would it be done and up to Code, he asked. Mr. Montero said the foundation has been fixed and that he has fixed all of the blocks. The Mayor thanked him and asked him if there was anything else he’d like to say?

The Mayor asked if there was any additional discussion? Councilman Balsley said he doesn’t see that any progress has been made. Mr. Montero has been put on notice for six months and no progress has been made that we have seen, the Councilman said.

Mayor Donecker asked if there were any more recent photographs? It was determined by staff that all of the pictures were from September.

Setliff said that Mr. Montero did put in insulation but he does not have a building permit. He did put some blocks in the foundation to seal up some of the holes, but that does not repair the issue, she said, saying that it just keeps rodents from getting under the house. She said this is not work that meets building codes or stabilizes the house.

Councilman Hairston said he hasn’t heard a real plan from Mr. Montero and that he can get this done in this amount of time? He said he was not convinced that even if Council gave him an extension of time that he could get it done.

Mr. Montero said he could take pictures of the foundation. He said that is the main thing right now and Council would see the difference in pictures from before and now. He asked Council to give him six months.

**Council then voted 7-0 on the motion to proceed with the demolition of 117 Arlington Street.**

The demolition ordinance as approved follows:

**ORDINANCE**

**TO DEMOLISH 117 ARLINGTON STREET, REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:**

**WHEREAS**, on the 17th day of October, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., the Codes Inspector of Reidsville, North Carolina conducted a hearing on violations of Chapter 4, Article II, Housing Code, Reidsville Code of Ordinances, Section 4-26, for the property at located at 117 Arlington Street, Reidsville, North Carolina Tax Map No. 8905-18-31-6679. The Complaint and Notice of Hearing was mailed via Certified Mail on September 30, 2013 and was returned unclaimed. Said owners being Benjamin Montero and Anahi Montero. The Complaint and Notice of Hearing was posted on the subject property on September 30, 2013.

**WHEREAS**, said owners appeared at said hearing, presented no evidence, and whereas a copy of the Code Enforcement Order was mailed to the owner via Certified Mail on October 25, 2013. Furthermore, the Code Enforcement Order was posted on said property on October 25, 2013 and published in the Reidsville Review newspaper on November 17, 2013. The Order allowed said owner to demolish and remove the above structure on or January 31, 2014 and whereas there has been no compliance with said Order in that said structure has not been demolished or removed, and remains dilapidated and unfit for human habitation, and constitutes a public health, safety, and fire hazard;

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the Reidsville Code of Ordinances, Section 4-29(c), the Code Enforcement Inspector of Reidsville, North Carolina is hereby ordered to cause the above structure located at 117 Arlington Street, Reidsville, North Carolina, to be demolished and removed. Pending demolition and removal, the Code Enforcement Inspector is to placard said structure as provided by N.C.G. S. 160A-443 and Section 4-29 (b) of the Reidsville Code of Ordinances.

This is the 9th day of April, 2014.

/s/

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John M. “Jay” Donecker, Mayor, Reidsville, North Carolina

ATTESTED BY:

/s/

Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

**DISCUSSION ABOUT CHANGING THE DATE AND TIME OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

**Councilwoman Walker made the motion to begin in August of 2014 alternating Council’s meeting schedules with the August, October, December, February, April and June meetings being held at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, and the September, November, January, March and May meetings would remain at 3 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. The motion was seconded by Mayor Donecker.**

Councilman Turner said he had met at 3 p.m. for a long time, and it would be hard to break that habit. The Mayor noted that Councilwoman Walker’s motion was a compromise or something we can live with. Councilman Balsley said he hadn’t heard a groundswell of support to meet in the evenings, but citizens might consider it more transparent and receptive of their wishes.

Councilwoman Walker told Councilman Turner that she respected his expertise, but her constituents have said they can’t get here at 3 p.m. in the afternoon, and she would like for them to have the opportunity to come at night. She said she would like to try it. Councilman Gorham said the Council’s meeting schedule was a main issue back in the 2005 campaign, but he acknowledged there was not a tremendous increase in population at nighttime meetings.

**Council voted 6-1 on the motion with Councilman Turner voting against.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS;**

**Thank you for Mountain Bike Trail Progress.**

Mr. Bill Davis, owner of Reidsville Bicycles, said he was here to say thanks about a mountain bike trail. A lot of work done has been done behind the scenes by Tom (Wiggins) and Cole (Perkinson), and they are close to getting such a trail opened at Lake Reidsville, he noted. An excellent area at the lake has been found on the property across the road from the lake where the small airplanes are flown. He said he is very excited about it and feels like it is going to add a lot to the infrastructure of the City. He said his business will be behind the effort here. City Council thanked him for bringing business here. In a side note, it was stated that the US Pro Criterium will be in Reidsville on Saturday, September 6. Davis said he hoped to bring some national pros to race on Friday night, which would give the local race greater stature.

**Congratulations on Casino Night.**

Mr. Doug Astin of 512 Merrick Street, Reidsville, congratulated Terresia Scoble for a great casino night event. Councilman Turner pointed out that Mr. Astin was also the Elvis impersonator at the casino night.

**Issue on Barnes Street.**

Jeff Doucette, Executive Manager of Pace Automotive, appeared before Council. He said he thought they were doing a great job growing our community, and he was glad to be a part of it. He briefly discussed his company’s participation in the community, including the car show, rec league, soccer league, etc. He said he has also trying to be a good neighbor, but he said the parking lot beside the new Bojangles has been turned into an 18-wheeler parking lot. He expressed concerns about the red clay and dust getting on $2.2 million worth of cars on his lot as well as creating a slick hazard when it rains. He showed Council members some pictures of the situation, including the red dirt on his vehicles. The dirt also gets in the shop where they work on cars, he said. Doucette said he called the Bojangles owner, who said he doesn’t own that lot. Doucette told Council he needs some help. Doucette’s mechanic talked of the damage the dirt and dust can do to the vehicles. Doucette said he didn’t know if this was an EPA issue, but again he talked of problems with the mud and dirt. He said he needed Council’s help and again noted that he was trying to be a good neighbor.

The Mayor asked Setliff what she had found out about the ownership of the lot. Setliff said that A&D Real Estate Holdings out of Elon owns both the Bojangles lot and the lot to the side. City Attorney Bill McLeod Jr. said this sounded like a matter between two private property owners. He said he was not sure it is a City issue. Mayor Donecker asked if there would be any value of a letter coming from the Mayor letting them know about the complaint coming before us? McLeod indicated he thought that would be okay. The Mayor said he likes to hear that the same group owns both lots because mud being tracked into the restaurant could be an issue as well.

It was noted that this is a State road, not a City road, so NCDOT might want to get involved since it could be a possible safety hazard. It was decided the Mayor would write a letter and copy NCDOT on it. Mayor Donecker stressed to Doucette that he couldn’t make any promises. Assistant City Manager Phillips said we’ll look into it and get back with you. The Mayor also told Doucette he would cc him on the letter as well, and he invited Doucette to call NCDOT. Councilman Gorham agreed that his vehicle got on the mud out there one time, and it was just like he was on ice.

**Property at 451 Market Street.**

Mr. David Willis of 131 Willis Lane came forward to discuss 451 Market Street. He provided pictures of the property, which has an Order to Demolish on it. He said he had gotten permits today and expected to close on the house today or Friday after getting a good deal on it. He noted that he has fixed houses worse than this before and that he planned to make it into a nice house. Willis stressed that he is not a slum lord and that he plans to either make it a rental or sell it. He said he would have people over there the first of the week. Among the issues are two trees that are close to the power lines, the back yard is full of trash and the house will need new electrical service, etc. He said he would be doing some of the work himself. Willis said he is currently working on a house at 1208 Northup Street but around the first of May, he should be able to put all of his effort in the Market Street house.

Mayor Donecker asked Willis if he has the ability to close on the house tomorrow? Willis said Marty Melvin and Matt Smith are working on it, but that he can’t clean up anything until he owns it.

Setliff explained that the 90 days ends on April 20. Mr. Willis wants to get ahead of the game, she said, but the issue wouldn’t come before the Council until May or June. Councilman Turner asked Willis how long it will take to rehab this house. Willis replied best case would be July, worst case would be August. He said he would be willing to put it into writing if they want.

Councilman Gorham said he will support Willis on this, but he will be eyeballing it since he has a vested interest in it. Willis said he has 100% confidence in the project. The Councilman said he would like to see progress as he goes. Willis said anyone can come and look at it. Setliff said that if Willis is diligently working on it in June, she wouldn’t waste Council’s time bringing it to them. She said we can work with it as long as we are seeing progress. Willis has done work on Turner Drive and North Scales Street, it was noted.

Mayor Donecker called for a five-minute break.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT.**

Assistant City Manager Phillips cited Manager Pearce’s written report. (A COPY OF THE REPORT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Among the items were the Rec Center improvements, the smell on Vance Street/Freeway Drive, clearing sediment by drawing ice through the lines and the temporary switch from chloramines to chlorine in the water lines. A CodeRED message will go out Friday to get the word out because the chlorine burnout is strongest as it starts with the smell and taste of chlorine. He noted that it has been in the newspaper already and will be on the City website. If you get calls, direct them to one of the telephone numbers in the attached press release. The changeover will begin on the April 14th. Later this month, Phillips noted that there will be public meetings on the skat bus where input will be sought. Flyers are posted around City Hall about that, he said. He said Council members also need to look at their calendars to schedule budget work sessions.

Councilman Turner asked why we didn’t follow the Secretary of the Interior’s recommendations on the Food Deals building? The rounded windows were replaced with rectangular windows, he said. He questioned whether the old windows could not be repaired so that we could try and stay within the building’s character as best we can. Assistant City Manager Tom Wiggins said he was trying to be the most cost effective. Councilman Turner said we should also try to make it as historic as possible. Wiggins said the windows were not repairable and that he was given a very modest budget. He said he was trying to stabilize the building and was not given direction to match the architectural style. He said metal trim could be put around the windows to make them look nicer and that there will be hunter green awnings used as well.

Mayor Donecker complimented staff on working on the smell issue at Vance/Freeway. He said both Sheetz and Albaad are interested in the ice pigging process and would like to see it done.

The Mayor asked if the industries have been notified of the chlorine switch. Phillips said he was sure they have been, but he would check on it.

It was decided that since the City Manager was not here, he would come up with some possible dates and contact Council members.

**BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

Assistant City Manager Phillips distributed the ballots for the board and commission appointments.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORTS.**

**Councilman Walker** – The Councilwoman reported that on Thursday night at 6:30 p.m., the program sponsored by the Appearance Commission, “Recycling Your Lawn, Mow it High and Let it Lie”, will be held at City Hall. She also congratulated Reidsville resident Jimmy Setliff, who has been elected to the State ABC Board.

**Councilman Gorham** – The Councilman noted that he had attended three Community Watch meetings. He said there was not a lot going on, but the Watch groups wanted to make sure Council knows they appreciate everything the Police Department is doing. He said he is happy about the proactive approach of “Operation Clean Sweep”. The Councilman said he had also taken on the challenge of the Help the Homeless meetings at the request of the Mayor although he cannot attend every month because he works with the senior citizens at the Senior Citizen Center. He said he has attended the Mayor’s nighttime hours, which have been a very good, productive opportunity for citizens to come in during a nonthreatening situation. The Planning Board meeting business was taken care of today.

**Councilman Turner** – The Councilman said that on March 15, Las Vegas came to Reidsville. The blackjack dealers, in addition to the Councilman, were Mayor Donecker and City Manager Pearce. Steve Moore was the roulette master. The event raised $3,100 to fund future events, he said. The downtown merchants pulled together and donated prizes, food, showcased special recipes, etc. He thanked Terresia Scoble and Diane Sawyer, RDC members and their spouses, Elvis, Tina Turner and others who participated. He noted that none of the other Council members could attend. He then discussed the Main Street Conference and its topics, including the Basics of Promotion, the Basics of Design for Public and Private Spaces, the Basics of Design for Buildings, etc. He encouraged other Council members to attend next year. Every dollar in downtown development and improvements results in $18 of revenues. May 3rd Margaritaville will come to Reidsville, including cheeseburgers in paradise, so wear your sunglasses, shorts and flip flops down to the Events Center from 5 p.m. until midnight, he said.

**Councilman Hairston** – The Councilman said he attended several Community Watch meetings. He said it is good to see the citizens so interested in working with our City employees. He talked of presentations by the Police Department and Public Works, which did a recycling presentation that was very informative. Councilman Gorham said at two of those meetings, City staff went over the chlorine flush.

**Councilman Balsley** – The Councilman noted that this past Saturday, he attended a luncheon at Rockingham Community College where four young ladies who are juniors at our County High schools were honored for their volunteer work by the Rockingham Community Foundation. Each received a $500 award and, in turn, gave their money back to the organization for which they volunteered. Alexis Davis, who volunteered for several years at Annie Penn, gave the $500 grant to Annie Penn. At the luncheon, Gloria Schoeberle with Carolina College Advisory Corp, who is assigned to Reidsville High School, said RHS is wonderful, the students are incredible and the teachers are wonderful. He said he was pleased to hear that.

Councilman Balsley asked Diane Sawyer of the Reidsville Chamber to discuss upcoming Chamber events, which included the candidates forum April 14 at the Reidsville Event Center, staff appreciation on April 23, Lunch and Learn April 16 with Health First and Herbal Life, and the May Coffee on May 1st at Lowes Home Improvement. She said she’d also like to get some of the Reidsville Connect cards for her office.

**Mayor Pro Tem Brown** – The Mayor Pro Tem noted that he attended the youth basketball games, including the semi-finals last night. The championship is today at 6 p.m. He said the gym has been packed every night, and he encouraged everyone to attend if they get a chance. Renovation of the rec center is going well, picnic shelters and campsites are full at Lake Reidsville next weekend and things are picking up there and at the Teen Center. He said a lot of kids participated last weekend at a cleanup project at the Teen Center.

**Mayor Donecker** – The Mayor said the EDC (Rockingham County Partnership for Economic & Tourism Development) is looking at reorganizing, He said he is on the transition team that is looking at how the proposed changes will be implemented and the relationship between the municipalities. He said he visited Albaad today, noting it is a very dynamic company that is looking forward to line improvements. He said Casino Night was great, as was the Chamber coffee at Reidsville Florist. He said some people are attending the evening hours with the next one planned for May 15. He said he will get the May dates out soon. The Mayor also noted that the vacancies on boards and commissions are listed on the City website, and please let people know about them. He also noted that there are over 350 jobs available within 10 miles of Reidsville and a link to that information has been put on the City website by Angela Stadler.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS.**

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

Historic Preservation Commission: James R. Jackson of 311 Irvin Street

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission: James “Tony” Grogan of 1405 Brookwood Drive.

**ADJOURN TO THE FIRST-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM FOR A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL UNDER G.S. 143-318.11 (A)(6).**

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to adjourn to the conference room for closed session.**

Upon return to open session, Council members stayed in the first-floor conference room to discuss proposed changes to the City’s health care plan.

**DISCUSSION OF CITY’S HEALTH CARE PLAN.**

**Prior to the discussion, Councilman Turner made the motion to recuse Mayor Pro Tem Brown and Councilman Hairston from the discussion since they are both on the City’s health care plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved 7-0.**

Assistant City Manager Phillips distributed a handout on proposed health care plan changes. (A COPY OF THE DOCUMENTS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He noted that proposed changes had been discussed in the previous budget work session. He said the City needs to change the plan and make the plan more affordable for the City by implementing the following: increasing the deductible and the maximum out of pocket for each employee; increasing the co-insurance from 10% to 20%; keeping the doctor co-pay the same; and putting a prescription ceiling floor on the name brands to encourage the use of generic brands. Unlike in the past, the deductibles and co-pays will work towards the out-of-pocket expenses, he said, and preventative services will not be tapped. The plan used to pay $300 towards such services but there is no cap now as a part of health care reform, Phillips said. The City plans to expand the $50 benefit for eye exams to spouses and children, not just employees, he noted. The wellness program will include a little bit of a disincentive, he said, with the deductible going from $500 to $750 unless the employee, spouse or retiree participates in the wellness program. The City will define what participation will be.

Phillips said that approval of these changes is sought. These changes will be presented to the Management Team tomorrow with sessions for the retirees and employees beginning on Friday. We need to get employees’ enrollment forms back by next week in order to get the insurance cards to them on time, he said.

Mayor Donecker said it doesn’t list what the employee would have to pay for spouses, but it was noted that Council will need to vote on the changes and then go on to the premium changes. Phillips said the City could either cut benefits or raise the monies on the premiums. He said these are “two ends of the candles” and need to be handled separately.

**Councilman Turner made the motion, seconded by Councilman Balsley and unanimously approved in a 5-0 vote, to adopt the changes.**

Mayor Donecker said the changes were well communicated to the Council.

Phillips explained that the second handout is the premiums sheet. He said staff is not recommending at this time that employees pay anything for their own insurance. We are recommending a 10% across the board increase on health and dental insurance, he continued. He said those paying for the family plan would see the largest increase, he said, or about $54 a month or $24 or $26 pre-taxed.

Councilman Balsley reiterated that employees themselves don’t have to pay for their own coverage? Phillips said no, they don’t. Those with spouses or children on the plan will have to pay a 10% increase, he said. For some, this would be about $20 a month. Retirees don’t pay if they have 30 years in the system while some retirees have 50% of their health insurance paid by the City so they would be affected, the Assistant City Manager said. Some retirees have gone out on disability, others are cut off at Medicare or age 65, he said. Therefore, some are paying part of their premium. Separation allowance for police officers was discussed briefly, along with a failed movement to get health insurance for retired officers at 25 years of service.

**Councilman Turner made the motion, seconded by Councilman Balsley, to approve staff’s recommendation on the premiums.**

Councilman Turner said it was important to recognize that employees couldn’t get this level of health insurance for this price.

**The motion then passed in a 5-0 vote.**

Phillips noted that this was a very stressful topic for us. We took it very seriously, he said, and they were going to get the word out about it. We feel like the majority of our employees will understand why. Council thanked staff for all of their hard work, noting we are lucky to have the employees that we have.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown and Councilman Hairston then returned to the discussion.

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to adjourn at approximately 6:05 p.m.**

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 John M. “Jay” Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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 Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk