**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015 AT 3 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Harry L. Brown

Councilman Donald L. Gorham

Councilman William Hairston

Councilman Clark Turner

Councilwoman Sherri G. Walker

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilman Tom Balsley

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC, City Clerk

William F. McLeod Jr., City Attorney

Chris Phillips, Assistant City Manager of Administration/Finance Director

Tom Wiggins, Assistant City Manager of Community Services

Kevin Eason, Public Works Director

David Bracken, Fire Chief

Robert Hassell, Police Chief

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION.**

Reverend Dr. Richard Miles, Pastor of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, 315 Lindsey Street, Reidsville, provided the invocation.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

Mayor Donecker asked for a moment of silence for retired Police Captain Ken Hanks, who passed away unexpectedly this morning.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Council members led in the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

**RECOGNITION OF RETIRED LT. DOYLE O’BRYANT OF THE REIDSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY.**

Mayor Donecker read aloud the proclamation recognizing Lt. O’Bryant’s years of service to the City. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) O’Bryant, who received a standing ovation, thanked the City Council for allowing him to serve the citizens of Reidsville, noting he had enjoyed his tenure with the City and if his help was needed, he was not far away. The Mayor presented O’Bryant with his 30-year watch and each of the Council members shook his hand and offered their congratulations.

**RECOGNITION OF RETIRED HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST CAROLYN NIMMONS FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY.**

Mayor Donecker then read aloud a proclamation honoring Retired Human Resources Analyst Carolyn Nimmons for her 30 years of service to the City. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Nimmons also received a standing ovation. She told everyone it had been a “good run,” but that she was enjoying her retirement. She thanked the City Council and fellow co-workers for some good years. She also received congratulatory handshakes from the Council.

**RECOGNITION OF THE CITY’S WASTEWATER & WATER TREATMENT PLANTS’ STAFF FOR ACHIEVING 100% OPERATIONAL COMPLIANCE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014.**

**Water Treatment Plant.**

Mayor Donecker asked representatives of the Water Treatment Plant to come forward. He told Plant Superintendent Scott Jewell, Greg Purcell and Public Works Director Kevin Eason that 100% compliance, “this is huge.” The Mayor noted that a local industry was going to a third shift because of the quality of water we provide. He stated that the actions being taken, such as ice pigging, etc., were helping in that effort and in our efforts to recruit industries and bodes well for us in the future. He added that the competitors of the company he had mentioned had shut down occasionally because of their water quality, but the local industry did not. The Mayor presented a proclamation and plaque to the Water Plant. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Jewell thanked Council on behalf of the Water Treatment Plant staff but noted this is a huge effort by not only his staff but also others throughout the City. He cited specifically the efforts of Public Works Director Kevin Eason, plant maintenance including Ricky Fain and his staff, Lindsey Tuttle and Clinton Lawrence in Distribution, Chris Phillips and Human Resources, and Yvonne Ellison, Rochelle Tucker and Anita Strader in Finance. Councilman Hairston then asked that the Council be allowed to shake their hands.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

Mayor Donecker then asked for representatives of the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant to come forward to accept their proclamation and plaque for 100% compliance in 2014. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Representing the plant were WWTP Superintendent Mike Burleson, Maintenance Supervisor Ricky Fain, Laboratory Supervisor Mitzy Fain, Operator Pat McDonald, Pre-Treatment Coordinator Ralph Potter and PW Director Eason. The Mayor noted this is not a very glamourous job but is how the City is measured at the State level. He noted when he first joined the City Council, we were under a signed agreement which didn’t allow us to hookup new industries to our wastewater system. He stressed that is not good when you’re trying to recruit industries so this means a lot to him. This is what we will carry when we try to recruit jobs here, he said. Superintendent Burleson said it was great to be up here again this year, and they hoped to make it an annual event. He agreed that it was a total team effort by the people they see up here and the ones you don’t see. He said they all have to work to make this happen, adding that they feel more like a team than they ever did since transitioning to the City. It is a good feeling, Burleson said, and they appreciate the recognition. They, too, shook hands with Council members.

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

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

**Councilman Turner then made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 -- APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2014 REGULAR MEETING ADDENDUM, THE DECEMBER 5, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES, THE DECEMBER 9, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND THE DECEMBER 19, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 6-0 vote, the Council approved the November 12, 2014 Regular Meeting Addendum, the December 5, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes, the December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes and the December 19, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COORDINATED ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO HELP END HOMELESSNESS IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 6-0 vote, the Council approved the a Resolution of Support for the Implementation of a Coordinated Assessment Process as explained in the City Manager’s Memo (A COPY OF THE MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.).

The Resolution of Support as approved follows:

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

**For the Coordinated Assessment Process Designed to Help End Homelessness**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Reidsville is committed to ending homelessness in our City and County; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the City joined with other municipalities across Rockingham County to support efforts to derive a 10-year plan to end homelessness in our County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City continues that support, acknowledging the Coordinated Assessment process being implemented by participating agencies, including the Rockingham County Regional Committee Balance of State Continuum of Care; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Coordinated Assessment process will mean that throughout the United States, the same method will be used to collect the data on homelessness, which will assist Municipalities, Counties and States in proving the need as they seek future grants and financial assistance;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City of Reidsville pledges its support for the use of the Coordinated Assessment Process in the effort to abolish chronic homelessness, knowing that only through collaboration and coordination at all levels of government, along with community involvement, can homelessness be eradicated.

This the 21st day of January, 2015.

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

John M. “Jay” Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk

**- End of Consent Agenda -**

**CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS TO ADJUST ENTERPRISE CAPITAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE CLOSEOUT OF THE DAM SPILLWAY PROJECT.**

Assistant City Manager of Administration/Finance Director Chris Phillips referenced his memo in the agenda packets, which includes three Capital Project Ordinances and a Budget Ordinance Amendment. (A COPY OF THE MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He noted that the dam spillway project’s construction is done with the project coming under budget, due to great weather. It is time to close it out, and Phillips noted there were bond funds left over, which will be transferred to the water and sewer operating funds. He said at the same time, we are just getting started on improvements to the water and sewer plants, and there are costs which will not be covered by funding, basically the costs to issue the debt. The biggest cost is with the WWTP, which has received a $15 million loan from the State at 0% interest but there is a fee upfront which is close to $300,000, which funds the program, he said. We have to pay that fee ourselves, he said.

Noting this is a housecleaning item, Phillips said we are moving $746,000 from the dam project back to the Water operating fund; $100,000 to the Water Plant Project from the Water Fund; and $250,000 to the Wastewater Plant project from the Sewer Fund. This will mean a $351,000 net increase in the water and sewer operating fund as an additional amount which can be used for cash, he said. Public Works Director Eason has identified several projects which can use that money, but we will use the funds for the most pressing, Phillips said. He said most likely we will look at some of our older pump stations, which are next on the chart to be worked on. The Finance Director said to get the money to draw down on the bonds we need to spend the whole $746,000, and the water line project at Ann Ruston qualifies for that. Again, he said this just cleans all of that up. The only other thing Council is being asked to do other than approving those Capital Project Ordinance Amendments and the operating budget amendment is to approve a Change Order, which is the first change order to come in on the Sewer Plant project, Phillips noted. He pointed out that when the project was started, the City Manager was authorized to approve change orders up to $50,000, which is a small amount on a $15 million project. He said staff will come to Council through the course of the project to get change orders approved. Since the project is being funded by the State, the State must also approve any change orders, Phillips stated, and the State has approved this one. He cited the letter in the packet showing the State’s approval. The Finance Director said that is the process we will follow, running it by the State before bringing it to Council. This did not change the total budget of the project because we had some contingency funds, he said, and this change order was well under the available contingency funds.

Phillips reiterated that Council will need to approve the three Capital Project Ordinance Amendments, one of which includes the Change Order, and the Budget Ordinance Amendment, all of which are included in the packet.

City Manager Michael Pearce said the spillway project not only included great weather but also excellent work by contractor Crowder Construction Company, Schnabel Engineering and excellent assistance and management by Public Works Director Kevin Eason and Chris Phillips on the financial side. Pearce said it is very complicated to do this type of borrowing and these types of projects and to come that far under budget is just unbelievable. He added that it is great to be able to pay the issuance of this debt out of these monies that were already borrowed because otherwise the monies would have to come out of our utility reserves. He thanked them all for the excellent work they did, which was echoed by the Mayor.

The Mayor asked about how Council should vote on the amendments. City Attorney Bill McLeod Jr. said Council should make a motion on each amendment.

**Councilman Turner then made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment Authorizing Capital Improvements for Improvements to the Spillway and Dam at Lake Reidsville.**

The Capital Project Ordinance Amendment as approved follows:

**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**AUTHORIZING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SPILLWAY**

**AND DAM AT LAKE REIDSVILLE**

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina General Statute 159-13.2 authorizes the establishment of a Capital Project Fund to account for expenses and revenues that are likely to extend beyond a single fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the desire of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville to amend the capital project fund established for Lake Reidsville spillway and dam improvements on March 14, 2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville that:

Section 1 That the following revenue accounts for this project are hereby established or amended:

53-3910-0000 Proceeds of Revenue Bonds $ 400,000

53-3831-4910 Interest Earned $ 7,500

Section 2. The following line items of expenditures are hereby established:

53-7120-1900 Issuance Costs $ 4,000

53-7120-1990 Engineering (Reduced) ($ 115,500)

53-7120-5800 Construction (Reduced) ($ 147,000)

53-7120-9911 Contingency (Reduced) ($ 80,000)

53-7120-9910 Transfer to Water Fund $ 746,000

Section 3. The City Manager is hereby granted all necessary authority to carry out this project, including the approval of payment requests as earned under approved contracts, to approve change orders in each contract as long as said change orders amount to less than $20,000 each, to transfer funds from the established Contingency Fund to cover such change orders and cost overruns, to acquire rights-of-way, and to pay for bond issuance costs. The Finance Director is authorized to make temporary loans to this capital project from the General Fund in order to cover costs before receipt of revenues and to establish an acceptable cash flow.

This the 21st day of January, 2015

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

John M. “Jay” Donecker

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

City Clerk

**Councilwoman Walker then made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment Authorizing Capital Improvements to the City’s Water Treatment Plant.**

The Capital Project Ordinance Amendment as approved follows:

**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**AUTHORIZING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**TO THE CITY’S WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina General Statute 159-13.2 authorizes the establishment of a Capital Project Fund to account for expenses and revenues that are likely to extend beyond a single fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the desire of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville to amend the capital project fund established for water treatment plant improvements on October 9, 2013;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville that:

Section 1 That the following revenue account for this project is hereby established:

55-3988-0000 Transfer from Water Fund $ 100,000

Section 2. The following line item of expenditures is hereby established:

55-7120-1900 Issuance Costs $ 100,000

Section 3. The City Manager is hereby granted all necessary authority to carry out this project, including the approval of payment requests as earned under approved contracts, to approve change orders in each contract as long as said change orders amount to less than $50,000 each, to transfer funds from the established Contingency Fund to cover such change orders and cost overruns, to acquire rights-of-way, and to pay for debt issuance costs. The Finance Director is authorized to make temporary loans to this capital project from the Combined Enterprise Fund in order to cover costs before receipt of revenues and to establish an acceptable cash flow.

This the 21st day of January, 2015

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

John M. “Jay” Donecker

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

City Clerk

**Councilman Turner then made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment Authorizing Capital Improvements to the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

The Capital Project Ordinance Amendment as approved follows:

**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**AUTHORIZING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**TO THE CITY’S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina General Statute 159-13.2 authorizes the establishment of a Capital Project Fund to account for expenses and revenues that are likely to extend beyond a single fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the desire of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville to amend the capital project fund established for wastewater treatment plant improvements on October 9, 2013;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville that:

Section 1 That the following revenue account for this project is hereby established:

54-3988-0000 Transfer from Sewer Fund $ 295,000

Section 2. The following line items of expenditures are hereby established or amended:

54-7121-1900 Issuance Costs $ 295,000

54-7120-5800 Construction $ 170,000

54-1720-9911 Contingency (Reduced) ($ 170,000)

Section 3. The City Manager is hereby granted all necessary authority to carry out this project, including the approval of payment requests as earned under approved contracts, to approve change orders in each contract as long as said change orders amount to less than $50,000 each, to transfer funds from the established Contingency Fund to cover such change orders and cost overruns, to acquire rights-of-way, and to pay for debt issuance costs. The Finance Director is authorized to make temporary loans to this capital project from the Combined Enterprise Fund in order to cover costs before receipt of revenues and to establish an acceptable cash flow.

This the 21st day of January, 2015.

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

John M. “Jay” Donecker

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

City Clerk

**Councilman Gorham then made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 8.**

The Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 8 as approved follows:

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 8**

**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 adjust the Water and Sewer Funds operating budgets to reflect amendments to the Combined Enterprise Fund Capital Projects;

**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 61-3987-0000, Transfer to Water Fund from Dam/Spillway Capital Project, be increased by $746,000.00.

**Section 2.** That expense account number 61-4120-1800, Transfer from Water to Water Treatment Plant Project, be increased by $100,000.00; that expense account number 62-4120-1800, Transfer from Sewer to Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, be increased by $295,000.00; that expense account number 61-7121-1911, Water Master Plan Projects, be increased by $336,000.00; that expense account number 61-7120-1911, Water Plant Contracted Services, be increased by $15,000.00.

This the 21st day of January, 2015.

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

John M. “Jay” Donecker

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

City Clerk

**CONSIDERATION OF A LAKE HUNT DOCKS PROPOSAL.**

In making the staff report, Manager Pearce noted that the property owners had presented a well thought out proposal to put docks on Lake Hunt. The proposal had been reviewed by staff and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, which had voted to move the proposal forward to Council. (THE MEMO, PROPOSAL AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Pearce said he felt because of all of this hard work, it needed to be on the Council’s agenda. He said the proposal has been reviewed by Tom Wiggins, Donna Setliff, Kevin Eason and himself, who had suggested changes.

Pearce noted, having said all that, that Lake Hunt is different from Lake Reidsville in terms of water supply and how the State views it. He said it is still a critical part of our watershed and falls under the Jordan Lake Rules. The City Manager said it is possible to write an ordinance to allow boat docks on Lake Hunt, but it would be fairly complicated and a lot of work and time for staff. He said he didn’t want to come forward with a recommendation, which usually comes with an ordinance, if Council members had philosophical questions about allowing boat docks on Lake Hunt. Again noting that it is very time consuming and complicated to create such an ordinance, he said he didn’t want staff to work on it until they had feedback from Council.

Mr. Tim Warner of 166 Scenic Oaks Drive, Reidsville, representing the property owners, then came forward. He noted that they had considered Council’s feelings on docks on the lake and believed they had come up with a well thought out package. The environmental impact was one of their number one concerns, and they felt they had come up with some good rules and regulations which could provide a good, polished ordinance for those out at the lake and for the City, Mr. Warner said. One of the concerns was whether docks on the lake would create more development around the lake, he stated, adding he didn’t think Council would need to worry about that. He said Lake Hunt is mostly used for fishing, not for skiing and it isn’t large enough for boat pleasure riding. Developers would have to look at the ordinance where there is a limit to the number of docks, he said, so Council would always have control. It would make a developer have to stick his neck out, Mr. Warner stated. He added that the newest street in his development was done in 2006 and only two lots have been sold since then. He added the area is very secluded, and there is not a lot of activity on the lake.

Another issue is why should they have more access to a City lake than City residents do, Mr. Warner posed. He said he would agree if we had thousands of people visit Lake Hunt like they do Lake Reidsville. However, he pointed out that only seven City residents bought a pass for Lake Hunt. He noted that the City sold 87 combo passes for Lake Reidsville and Lake Hunt to City residents, meaning only 94 people out of 14,485 residents has an interest in being at Lake Hunt. He noted that is six-one hundredths of 1% of the citizens of Reidsville, who have shown such an interest.

Mr. Warner stressed that the money in the City budget for general maintenance of Lake Hunt is already strapped. It is really, really tight, he said, and a lake use fee for the docks would aid in that. He said the fee they had recommended had come from looking at the fees of other lakes, adding that their proposed fee was higher than some of those lakes. Noting that the City has over time taken in buildings, remodeled them and leased them out for service or retail, he likened this to the City leasing little spots – not giving a service or selling anything – but giving money to the City to help to support general maintenance of the lake. Mr. Warner said he felt it was a “win-win” for those who live there and for the City in terms of taking care of maintenance costs.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked what kind of investment would property owners have to make in terms of purchasing the boat docks themselves. Warner said that would vary, depending on what type of docks you want but it would be several thousand dollars, adding that the property owners have an invested interest in their homes and their docks. He stressed that Lake Hunt is physically their backyard, and they -- more than anybody -- want to make sure it is protected and to keep it looking good.

Mayor Donecker asked if anyone wanted to make a motion on whether we want additional staff resources to go toward an ordinance?

**Mayor Pro Tem Brown made a motion to allow staff to invest additional resources to move forward on this project. The Mayor asked for a second, but none was offered. The motion died for lack of a second.**

Mayor Donecker said with the lack of a second, Council will not entertain that motion.

**CONSIDERATION OF INCREASING THE AMOUNT IN THE ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSING OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TO $10,000.**

In making the staff report, City Manager Pearce noted that the City Manager in Reidsville has the authority to dispose of personal property valued at less than $500. The ordinance was approved in 1994 and does not include real property such as land but personal property owned by the City that is obsolete, not needed anymore or needs to be gotten out of the way, he said. Currently, we get rid of such property by sealed bid, negotiated offer or exchange of property, the City Manager explained. Since that time, the Legislature has raised the threshold to $30,000. Pearce noted that he and the City Clerk have discussed the need to raise that threshold several times over the years, how things come along and we have to wait and put things aside for a public auction. He noted that this has come up again lately because the evidence room has about 7,000 pieces of evidence in it, and we can dispose of it legally to get it out of our way by online public auction; however, currently he said we wouldn’t do that unless we had items over the current $500 limit. He requested that the Council give the City Manager the authority to get rid of up to $10,000 in items, which is less than the $30,000 allowed.

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to approve the $10,000 threshold.**

The Ordinance with the new threshold limit follows:

**AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES**

**FOR DISPOSING OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**VALUED AT LESS THAN $10,000**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Reidsville:

Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized, pursuant to G.S. 160A-266(c) to dispose of any surplus personal property owned by the City of Reidsville, whenever he determines, in his discretion, that:

(a) The item or group of items has a fair market value of less than $10,000;

(b) The property is no longer necessary for the conduct of public business; and,

(c) Sound property management principles and financial consideration indicate that the interests of the City would best be served by disposing of the property.

Section 2. The City Manager may dispose of any such surplus personal property by any means which he judges reasonably calculated to yield the highest attainable sale price in money or other consideration, including but not limited to the methods of sale provided in Article 12 of G.S. Chapter 160A. Such sale may be public or private, and with or without notice and minimum waiting period.

Section 3. The surplus property shall be sold to the party who tenders the highest offer, or exchanged for any property or services useful to the City if greater value may be obtained in that manner, and the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute and deliver any applicable title documents. If no offers are received within a reasonable time, the City Manager may retain the property, obtain any reasonably available salvage value, or cause it to be disposed of as waste material. No surplus property may be donated to any individual or organization except by resolution of the City Council.

Section 4. The City Manager shall, on or before the first day of February, report in writing to the City Council on any property disposed of under these provisions from July 1 through December 31 of the previous year, and shall, on or before the first day of August, report in writing to the City Council on any property disposed of under these provisions from January 1 through June 30 of that year. The written report shall generally describe the property sold or exchanged, to whom it was sold, or with whom exchanged, and the amount of money or other consideration received for each sale or exchange since the last such report was submitted.

Section 5. This ordinance is effective upon adoption, this 21st day of January, 2015.

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

John M. “Jay” Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk

**CONSIDERATION OF ORDERS TO DEMOLISH:**

**1701 COURTLAND AVENUE, REIDSVILLE**

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Donna Setliff noted she is asking permission to demolish 1701 Courtland Avenue, Reidsville. After receiving complaints, a City Codes Inspector found violations of the Minimum Housing Code. A title search revealed James Todd Smith to be the property owner. No lienholders were found, she continued. Mr. Smith attended the Minimum Housing Code Hearing held August 19, 2014, but no evidence was presented, Setliff explained. A Housing Code Enforcement Order was received by the property owner on September 20, 2014, which gave 90 days to demolish the building. That Order expired on December 18, 2014, she noted.

Setliff said the Order was for demolition because the estimated cost of repairs at $15,000 exceeded 50% of the value of the building listed at $19,048 by the County Tax Department at the time of the hearing. A follow-up inspection showed the building to still be in dilapidated condition, she said.

Property taxes for 2013 and 2014 amounting to $905.45 remain unpaid, the Community Development Manager said. The water has been off since 2011 and the dwelling is unoccupied, she added. Mayor Donecker asked if the property taxes are still unpaid? Setliff replied in the affirmative, stating they had been unpaid as of the date of the letter. The water has not been turned on for the past four years.

The owner, James Todd Smith of 258 Mercury Road, Collinsville, Va., came forward. He explained to Council he had moved away from Reidsville to Honduras and had rented out the house. It had gotten in poor condition so it was boarded up, but it was vandalized again. He said he tried to sell it and received several offers but they were pulled. He noted he had received another offer, but the person wanted to make sure they would be allowed time to bring it up to code. That person is here, along with a realtor, and is willing to buy the property and fix it back up, Mr. Smith said.

Mayor Donecker asked staff if we have a precedence of approving an ordinance and putting a deadline on it, staying the execution? The City does have such a precedent. If the property isn’t sold and the repairs aren’t made, we would got through with the demolition, he said. The Mayor asked about the level of complaints on the property? Setliff said various neighbors have complained at various times.

City Manager Pearce said the last thing we want to do is demolish a property, but he noted that when we get to this point, we have been working with people for a while. The property can be improved, he noted, but this is a “slippery slope” for Council to go down because the owner could improve the property enough that it is not dilapidated but is still an eyesore. He said he knew he hadn’t made the Council’s decision any easier to make, but these are the types of things they need to consider.

Realtor Regina Sharpe of 220 Barley Road, Reidsville, came forward. She noted that the buyer has been approved for funds to buy the house and can close within a week. He believes he would need approximately 3-6 months to bring it up to Code, she added. Ms. Sharpe said the property is not an eyesore but blends in with the surrounding neighborhood. She distributed pictures she had taken of the property. Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked when these pictures had been taken? She replied this morning.

Councilman Turner asked if the person had already secured financing for the purchase? Ms. Sharpe replied that the potential buyer, Dale Simpson, has the money for a cash sale. The Councilman said the buyer understood that if repairs are not made during the allotted time, he would be out of the monies he had spent? The Councilman also asked what estimate of time the buyer had? Mr. Simpson, who lives at 3001 Morson Street, Charlotte, NC, said he would like to have six months since he lives out of town and would want to have an ample amount of time. It was noted that this situation had been going on for quite some time. Ms. Sharpe said six years ago, Mr. Simpson renovated 617 Prince Williams Street, indicating he was in “good standing” on getting renovations done.

Councilman Gorham said because we don’t like to demolish if there is an opportunity to save it, he is willing to give six months. He said we could approve the Order to Demolish but stay its execution for six months. Councilman Turner asked for a progress report at three months. Councilman Gorham stressed to Mr. Simpson that if the repairs are not done within that six-month period, the house is going down.

**Councilman Gorham then made the motion to demolish the property if maintenance has not been taken care of in six months with a report to be made at three months. Councilwoman Walker seconded the motion, which Council approved in a 6-0 vote.**

The pictures were returned to the realtor.

The Ordinance as approved and stayed for six months follows:

**ORDINANCE**

**TO DEMOLISH 1701 COURTLAND AVENUE, REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:**

**WHEREAS**, on the 19th day of August, 2014 at 10:30 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 1701 Courtland Avenue, Reidsville, North Carolina Tax Map No. 7994-12-96-6909. The Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served on the owner on August 1, 2014, said owner being James Todd Smith.

**WHEREAS**, said owner 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 September 15, 2014, being received by said owner on September 20, 2014. The Order allowed said owner to demolish and remove the above structure on or before December 18, 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 1701 Courtland Avenue, Reidsville, North Carolina, to be demolished and removed, pending demolition and removal to post 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 21st day of January, 2015.

/s/

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

ATTESTED BY:

/s/

Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

**330 IRVIN STREET, REIDSVILLE**

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Setliff said she is requesting permission to demolish 330 Irvin Street. Originally found to be deteriorated in 2010, a hearing was conducted and an Order to board up the dwelling was approved. The dwelling has remained boarded up since 2010, she said, and in the summer of 2014, an inspection classified the structure as dilapidated. A title search had found the owner to be Charles J. Norton. There were no lienholders, Setliff said. A second Minimum Housing Code Hearing was scheduled for August 19, 2014 with the owner receiving a hand-delivered notice of the hearing on July 29, 2014. Mr. Norton attended that hearing and was explained the conditions. He received a Housing Code Enforcement Order on August 26, 2014, Setliff said, which gave him 90 days or until December 1, 2014 to demolish the structure. Demolition was required because the estimated cost of repairs listed at $18,000 exceeded 50% of the value of the building listed at $31,823 by the County Tax Department at the time of the hearing, she said.

The 2014 property taxes of $753.38 have not been paid, Setliff said. The water is on at the structure, she added. The Ordinance directing staff to demolish the building is included in their packets, and a notice of today’s meeting was mailed to the property owner, Setliff said.

City Manager Pearce distributed a letter from Mr. Norton, detailing the illnesses he and his wife have undergone for the past two months. (A COPY OF THE LETTER IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Councilman Turner stated that Mr. Norton has promised to do the work but never follows through, and the structure is certainly a blight on the neighborhood.

Setliff said a second appointment with Mr. Norton on December 3rd was cancelled by the homeowner. She reviewed a schedule of appointments where the Code Enforcement Officer had tried several times to do inspections. He did an external inspection of the property and found enough to see that the house was still in dilapidated condition. He was able to see inside the dwelling through one of the windows. No work has been done on it, she added.

Councilwoman Walker asked for confirmation that the only taxes due are from 2014 and that the water account has been kept up-to-date. Setliff replied in the affirmative. The Community Development Manager said staff has received numerous complaints since 2010. City Manager Pearce said the property owner has failed to do any work, and the property has slid to the point it is a nuisance and blight on the neighborhood.

Councilman Gorham noted that driving by the house, everything around it, as well as the house, has deteriorated. Setliff said staff has also received yard nuisance complaints. She noted that around the end of July 2013, they had worked with the property owner for over a month to get the yard in decent shape. Pearce noted that if the City demolishes the structure, we will clear the entire property. Setliff said we will have to go through the court system so it will not happen right away, adding we will probably have to do a summary ejectment.

**Councilman Turner then made the motion to sign this document so that we can cause demolition to 330 Irvin Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hairston.**

During discussion, Mayor Donecker asked for clarification on whether if someone wanted to purchase this property, could we stay the demolition? Pearce said if we get the court system to agree, we will move forward quickly with the demolition.

**The motion was approved in a 6-0 vote.**

The Ordinance as approved follows:

**ORDINANCE**

**TO DEMOLISH 330 IRVIN STREET, REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:**

**WHEREAS**, on the 19th day of August, 2014 at 10:30 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 330 Irvin Street, Reidsville, North Carolina Tax Map No. 8904-06-29-6516. The Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served by hand delivery to the owner on July 29, 2014, said owner being Charles J. Norton.

**WHEREAS**, said owner appeared at said hearing, presented no evidence, and whereas a copy of the Code Enforcement Order was hand delivered to the owner on August 26, 2014. The Order allowed said owner to demolish and remove the above structure on or before December 1, 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 330 Irvin Street, Reidsville, North Carolina, to be demolished and removed, pending demolition and removal to post 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 21st day of January, 2015.

/s/

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

ATTESTED BY:

/s/

Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

**CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT A SENIOR CENTER.**

City Manager Pearce distributed a letter of recommendation from Tom Moreau regarding the Senior Center bids. (A COPY OF THIS LETTER IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He noted Moreau and Assistant City Manager Wiggins are here for questions as well. Pearce reviewed the recent history behind the Senior Center, starting in December of 2011 when mold, etc. was found in the Recreation building and the seniors had to be moved out of the basement. Early on the Council directed staff to find a new home for our senior citizens, he said. It took several months to purchase property, which is three acres on Washington Avenue located a couple of hundred feet from the Rec/Fitness Center and near the Teen Center to create a “campus” facility. Architect Tom Moreau was hired, a concept established for the Center and financing sought. The City received financing through USDA allowing us to borrow up to $6.2 million at 3.5% interest over 40 years, the City Manager noted.

The whole process, Pearce said, has been very long and sometimes arduous, but we received eight bids last Thursday. The low bid of $5.3 million was received by S&S Building and Development of Greensboro, he said, adding that the highest bid came in at $6.4 million by BPM Construction Inc. This is a difference of $1.1 million, he continued. All of the bids fell relatively within the estimated scope of the project, he said, and we felt very comfortable accepting the low bid. S&S is a reputable, bonded company and has been approved as a bidder by USDA, he said, so he felt comfortable recommending this to Council.

Pearce asked that Council 1) approve the award to S&S Building & Development for $5,302,500 million for this project and 2) amend our Capital Project Ordinance for this construction. He distributed a copy of the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment, noting that we already have a CPO which authorized us to move forward with the purchase of the property and the design of the project, etc. He said the amendment reflects rounding up the total to $5.4 million to allow monies for furnishings, etc. listed at $250,000. He said he has always informed Council of the worst case scenario, but he has also said he would not bring to Council a project that cost that much. A lot of work has been done to bring down the cost of this project, including eliminating the pool, using brick instead of stone on the outside façade and eliminating 2,500 square feet on the City side of the project to 17,500 square feet by taking out some of the unusable space on the edges.

The City Manager told Council if they want to go forward, they would need to approve and sign the contract. Then we would get the notice to proceed out to the contractor, which would take 30-60 days for them to get going on this, Pearce told them. He discussed the timeframe, which ends with a completion date of May, 2016. Only at the end of the project will we know the total cost, he said, at which time we will finalize with USDA about the financing. He noted that we can continue fundraising efforts up until we sign on the final line with USDA for that amount. He added that we already have a $150,000 matching grant from the Reidsville Area Foundation, which we need to match by finding and using nongovernmental funds. This would lower our debt by $300,000, he said. Pearce said he can’t discuss it yet but it looks like we might have a $50,000 equipment grant. He said he is recommending we take $400,000 from our unallocated fund balance, which will lower our loan amount from USDA to about $4.8 million. That puts our annual payment down to about $223,000, he said. We already have a lease with ADTS for 7500 square feet of the facility, which would be about $75,000 of that construction amount. Per year, the net impact on our budget would be lowered from our earlier estimated annual payment of $272,000 to about $147,000, Pearce said. He said this is our recommendation today.

Mayor Donecker thanked Tom Wiggins for being the point person on this and helping to bring it along. He also thanked Tom Moreau for helping keep the process moving forward. It was noted that two motions were needed – the award of the contract and the CPO amendment.

**Councilman Gorham made the motion to approve the low bid of S&S Building for the Senior Center, which was seconded by Councilwoman Sherri Walker.**

During the discussion phase, Councilman Turner said he didn’t want to showboat on this issue but there have been a lot of changes since 2012. He said we have had to raise taxes 3 cents per $100; we know Commonwealth is moving to Greensboro; we know they will retain ownership of the building and property but they won’t be meeting anywhere near the taxes they are paying now; we are depending on rent from Aging & Disability and that while Lee (Covington) does a great job, he was concerned that Raleigh or the federal government might “pull the rug out” from that; businesses are closing left and right; and we have housing stock that is unsellable. He noted that he said all this to explain to his fellow Council members while he will not be voting for it.

Mayor Donecker said Councilman Turner had made all very good points. He said he would like to address the undercurrent within the City of Reidsville about what are we going to do when Commonwealth leaves. He said he wanted to follow-up on Councilman Turner’s comments directly on that issue. He said yes, Commonwealth may go, but the company is just a little over 4% of our tax base. Our tax base has usually grown by about 3.5%, he said. He said that is 4% of the tax base, assuming there will be no more dollars coming in on the property left here. Also, he said he is not a Pollyanna or a rocket scientist, but if somebody can come in here in seven years and make $500 million dollars with that facility like happened when American Tobacco left and took 25% of the tax base, we should not be fearful for our future. He said he thinks that the looming Commonwealth situation and whatever happens to it, that people are focusing too much on that and not recognizing that our tax base did grow over 3% last year alone. He added that we also have some other opportunities on the horizon and we have a population of citizens here who have been expecting his senior center over 10 years now, and the demographic shift is such that we will have more senior citizens here. He said we can either turn our backs on them or embrace them, and he said he always thought he had moved to a city that would embrace them. He said he would hope that we would move forward on this, citing the opportunity and optimism here, adding he said this with all due respect to Councilman Turner.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown said this issue has been on the table for 13 years. He said promises were made to our senior citizens that we were going to follow through. This is the largest growing population in Reidsville and Rockingham County, he said, and we need to do it.

Councilman Hairston said a lot of thought has been put into this by staff, including cutting and trimming while still making the facility as nice as possible. He said staff will make sure the money is used very, very, wisely, adding that many decisions have been made over the months and this is not a “leap into the dark.” He agreed with the Mayor on his remarks.

Councilman Gorham said we have made promises for the past 13 years. We are not putting up a facility that is not going to be used, he continued. We have a very active group of senior citizens, he noted, adding that he attends a few of those meeting and every week, there are new faces. This center will be a drawing card and will show that we love and respect our senior citizens who have paid their dues. This is an opportunity for them to enjoy that part of their lives, he stressed.

Councilwoman Walker said she has been impressed with the work that has been going on and the $150,000 grant. She asked if naming rights could be available? Pearce said “of course.” The Mayor said we’d probably want to have at least 30% of the building costs paid for through naming rights.

**Council members then voted on the motion, approving it 5-1 with Councilman Turner voting against.**

**Councilman Gorham made a motion to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment for the Senior Center, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown. The motion passed in a 5-1 vote with Councilman Turner voting in opposition.**

The Capital Project Ordinance Amendment as approved follows:

**CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF A SENIOR CENTER**

**WHEREAS,** North Carolina General Statute 159-13.2 authorizes the establishment of a Capital Project Fund to account for expenses and revenues that are likely to extend beyond a single fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS,** it is the desire of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville to amend the Capital Project Fund established for the construction of a Senior Center on August 8, 2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Reidsville that:

Section 1 The following revenue account for this project is hereby established:

58-3910-0000 Proceeds of Debt Financing $ 5,650,000

Section 2. The following line item of expenditures is hereby established/amended:

58-4910-5940 Construction $ 5,400,000

58-4910-5950 Furniture and Fixtures $ 250,000

Section 3. The City Manager is hereby granted all necessary authority to carry out this project, including the approval of payment requests as earned under approved contracts, to approve change orders in each contract as long as said change orders amount to less than $20,000 each, to transfer funds from the established Contingency Fund to cover such change orders and cost overruns, and to complete other costs as they arise. The Finance Director is authorized to make temporary loans to this capital project from the General Fund in order to cover costs before receipt of revenues and to establish an acceptable cash flow.

This the 21st day of January, 2015.

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

John M. “Jay” Donecker

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC

City Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**Mr. William Osborne speaks on Medicaid expansion.**

Mr. William Osborne of Eden approached Council to discuss Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. He said North Carolina taxpayers are paying for Medicaid expansion that we are not getting but is, in fact, benefiting groups in Arizona. He stressed that this is well beyond a “Republican/Democrat” issue. He discussed the effects on the State economy and locally, especially on rural hospitals like Morehead Hospital in Eden, which are feeling the strain. He expressed concerns about the economic effects on our hospitals as well as the economic development issues we face because of it. Osborne, saying he was convinced Raleigh doesn’t have the leadership to move this issue forward, said he is asking Council to pass a Resolution of Support for the Medicaid expansion. In response to the Mayor’s query, he said he would create a resolution and send something to the City Clerk.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT.**

In making his last City Manager’s Report to Council, City Manager Pearce said in addition to his written report, he wanted to discuss the 911 consolidation, noting it has taken longer than anyone expected it to. The City of Eden is already in Wentworth because they chose not to allow their mobile systems to be fully operational before going out there, thinking they would go another way. He said we wanted to make sure all of that was done exactly right before going out to the new 911 center. He said he had been assured that all of this will be done by July 1st. He added that he had only put in this year’s budget three months’ pay for telecommunicators so he would think at some point the Police Chief will bring to the Interim City Manager a request for additional monies because our telecommunicators are not ready to move out to the county. The Police Department has been doing retrofits to its building to prepare for the transfer, but the county is just not ready so that will become a budgetary problem in the next couple of months, he said.

Pearce thanked the Council for allowing him to be City Manager. He said he had tried to figure out how many Council meetings he had attended over his almost 39 years, and he didn’t know but it was a lot. He said it has been a challenge to serve as City Manager, but it has been a remarkable way to end his career. He said he wished he was younger so he could work longer but this is his time. He said he looked forward to maintaining the relationships and friendships with those on Council. He said he appreciated how they have worked together in a positive way even though we haven’t always agreed. He noted he has seen some real challenges in the past four years as City Manager but has made it with the help of Council and an unbelievably exceptional staff. He said he is proud to call himself a City of Reidsville employee in whatever position he has held. He again thanked everyone for all of the support but noted he was looking forward to retirement. He said there will be a large portion of this he will miss, including the challenges, but mostly the people. He thanked Pastor Miles for the prayer.

**BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORTS.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Brown** – The Mayor Pro Tem said he attended everything he could in December. He talked about attending recent Martin Luther King events, along with his fellow Council members. He noted that Major Ronnie Ellison won the MLK Award from the Ministerial Alliance at the MLK breakfast. He told City Manager Pearce that he appreciated his selection for the City’s Employee of the Year, which was one of the best selections he had witnessed as Billy Butler received his award posthumously and Ginnie Williams of Parks & Rec. was recognized as well. He said he appreciated everything Pearce has done.

**Councilman Gorham** – The Councilman said he had quite a few activities to report, including attending the Day of Prayer in front of the Police Department where local ministers prayed for the City, the State and nation; the Public Works barbeque; Captain Ellison’s promotion to Major ceremony where the Major received several awards which he heard about again at First Baptist Church; the December 19th special Council meeting; played the role of Santa Claus at Cara’s Daycare Center; the Community Watch meeting on Watson Street where they feed the Police Department; the King celebration and march at First Baptist Church; and the RDC retreat, where as one of the Mayor’s selectees he heard some very constructive things that hopefully will make the City a better place to live. He told City Manager Pearce that he had enjoyed working with him and now Pearce won’t have to be hearing from him 2-3 times a week. He told him to enjoy his time off.

**Councilman Turner** – The Councilman told Pearce that he is “just a boy” and doesn’t know why he needs time off, but he said it has been a pleasure.

**Councilman Hairston** – The Councilman said he had attended several meetings, enjoying himself in December. He told City Manager Pearce he had enjoyed working with him down through the years and appreciated the time he has invested in the City.

**Councilwoman Walker** – The Councilwoman agreed that December had been a busy month and that she was able to attend the January 7th and 20th Mayor/Council hours, which had been very beneficial and reflected the City’s open door policy. She said she attended the “Meet the Artist” reception on January 8th where they heard from their constituents; was picked by the Mayor to attend the RDC retreat which she agreed with Councilman Gorham had been very beneficial; attended the Community Watch meeting on January 13 where they were served food to the Police Department; the Martin Luther King breakfast; and the singing and service at First Baptist Church on Hubbard Street. Noting she could say a lot, she thanked City Manager Pearce from the bottom of her heart. She noted that they didn’t always see eye to eye but thanked him for all his hard work.

Since Councilman Balsley was not there due to sickness, she asked that Diane Sawyer of the Chamber be allowed to tell them of Chamber activities. Sawyer thanked them for the MLK breakfast, including the scholarships to Reidsville High School students; noted the Chamber was in its new space with phase one complete and she would be happy to show them around; February 4th will be the Chamber’s annual awards luncheon; the February coffee will be Feb. 5th at La Boutique; and several ribbon cuttings are being planned. She thanked City Manager Pearce for being so kind to her and enjoyed their partnership with them, adding it is very important that the City Manager and City Council work well with the Chamber. She said we will miss you but told Pearce to enjoy his time.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS.**

City Clerk Angela Stadler announced that David Eberle of 101 Windemere Drive had been re-appointed to the Firemen’s Relief Fund Board in a unanimous vote and LaToye Britt of 103 Moss Street was unanimously appointed to the Reidsville Human Relations Commission. (A COPY OF THE BALLOTS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

**Mayor Donecker** – The Mayor said there is a dock on Lake Hunt that needs to be removed and taken care of by staff. He noted that he will be on WGSR’s City Chat tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. where they will focus on the sculpture and City Council agenda. On February 12th, he and Robert Jernigan, Diane Sawyer and Mayor Pro Tem Brown will ride the skat bus leaving at 10 a.m. from in front of the library, and he invited other Council members to attend the ride, which will be filmed by Jernigan.

The Mayor told City Manager Pearce it had been his extreme pleasure to work with him, noting it had been great to see how the City staff had responded to his style of management and that it bodes well to the City in terms of customer service and our delivery of service to the citizens. Pearce had gone over and beyond and was a steady voice and counsel in doing some significant changes, whether it was merit ranges for employees, ice pigging or the Senior Center, the Mayor asserted. Thank you for all you’ve done, he told Pearce.

**MOVE TO FIRST-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM FOR A CLOSED SESSION TO REVIEW AND APPROVE CLOSED SESSIONS MINUTES UNDER G.S. 143-318.11(A)(1) AS A LEGAL MATTER AND A PERSONNEL MATTER UNDER G.S. 143-318.11(A)(6).**

**Councilman Turner made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to go into closed session.**

**Upon return from closed session, Councilwoman Walker, made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote, to adjourn.**

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John M. “Jay” Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk