

**City Council Work Session
March 23, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in work session on Monday, March 23, 2015 in Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Joe Peel
Councilwoman Jean Baker
Councilman Ray Donnelly
Mayor Pro Tem Anita Hummer
Councilman Tony Stimatz
Councilman Michael Brooks *(arrived at 5:35 p.m.)*
Councilman Kem Spence *(arrived at 6:20 p.m.)*
Councilman Darius Horton *(arrived at 5:35 p.m.)*

MEMBERS ABSENT: *(Clerk notation: One 4th Ward Seat Currently Vacant)*

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Rich Olson
City Attorney Bill Morgan
Chief of Police Eddie Buffaloe
Electric Department Superintendent Karl Clow
Assistant to the City Manager Angela Cole
Human Resources Director Katherine Felton
Public Utilities Director Paul Fredette
IT Director Matthew Simpson
Inspections Director Stanley Ward
Parks and Recreation Director Bobbi White
City Clerk Vivian White

The City Council work session was called to order by Mayor Joe Peel at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Peel welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the invocation, after which he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:

Mayor Peel called for any adjustments to and approval of the agenda.

Motion was made by Councilman Tony Stimatz, seconded by Councilwoman Jean Baker, to approve the agenda as presented. Those voting in favor were: Baker, Donnelly, Hummer, and Stimatz. Against: None. The motion carried. *(Brooks, Spence and Horton had not yet arrived.)*

2. Statement of Disclosure:

The City Clerk read the Statement of Disclosure. No conflict of interest disclosures regarding items listed on the agenda were made.

3. Dedication Ceremony – Roanoke Avenue Drainage Project, 910 S. Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive

Mayor Peel recessed the meeting at 5:36 p.m. to allow the City Council to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the Roanoke Avenue Drainage Project. The ceremony was held at the newly constructed stormwater pump station at 910 S. Martin Luther King Drive.

Mayor Peel called the meeting back to order at 6:20 p.m.

Mayor Peel thanked City staff for the ribbon cutting that the Council members attended and for all their hard work on the Roanoke Avenue Drainage Project.

4. Committee Reports:

- a) EC-PC Economic Development Commission: Mayor Pro Tem Hummer, Councilwoman Baker, Councilman Donnelly and Mayor Peel

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer reported that the Commission met on March 18, 2015 but did not have a quorum since several people were attending meetings in Raleigh. She said that the Executive Director of the Albemarle Commission, Kathy Davison, attended in order to provide a report and she hoped that she would return to complete her presentation. She stated that she would also be scheduling a budget meeting during the coming week.

- b) Central Communications Advisory Board: Councilman Spence

Councilman Spence had nothing new to report.

- c) Fireman's Relief Fund Board: Councilman Brooks

Councilman Brooks had nothing new to report.

- d) NC Eastern Municipal Power Agency: City Manager Olson and Mayor Peel

Mr. Olson stated that a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2015. He also reported that while in Raleigh for Town Hall Day, he had an opportunity to sit in on the Senate and Finance Committee discussions concerning the NCEMPA Asset Sale Bill. He said that Duke's lobbyists have done an extremely good job and the legislation is progressing quickly. He stated that with any luck, the bill would be signed by Governor McCrory during the first week of April.

- e) Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.: Councilman Donnelly

Councilman Donnelly stated that Rebecca Cross attended the Main Street conference in Morganton over the last week and a report would be given during the next Board meeting on Wednesday, March 25. He stated that Potato Festival activities are well under way and volunteers are always needed.

f) Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce Board: Mayor Peel

Mayor Peel reported that the Chamber's annual dinner is being held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 and the Ex-Disney Guy will be the speaker for the event. He advised that the Chamber's next big event is the annual Business Expo being held in April.

g) Finance Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Hummer, Councilman Donnelly, Councilman Horton and Mayor Peel

Mayor Pro Tem Hummer reported that a number of items were discussed during the Finance Committee meeting and all items were forwarded to the City Council for consideration of approval.

h) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Councilman Horton

Councilman Horton stated that the last meeting was cancelled due to not having a quorum available.

i) Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Airport Authority: Councilman Stimatz

Councilman Stimatz reported that the Authority met on Wednesday, March 18, 2015. He stated that the biggest issue being dealt with is receipt of the grant for the apron repair project, which is a \$4,105,000 project. He said that the DOD fuel contract sales are going well overall.

j) Storm Water Advisory Board: Councilman Stimatz, Councilman Donnelly and Councilman Brooks

Councilman Stimatz stated that the board tried to meet during the last week, but a quorum was not available. He said he would reschedule the meeting sometime around April 15.

k) Tourism Development Authority: Councilwoman Baker

Councilwoman Baker stated that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2015 during which time each of the line item "funders" will provide presentations on their needs for the year. She reported that on April 13, 2015, the full board will be interviewing four finalists for the director's position. She stated that during the Economic Development Commission meeting, she reported on the very successful open house held for the vacant businesses located downtown.

Councilman Stimatz reminded everyone about the film, Racial Taboo, which will be shown for elected officials on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 6 p.m. at Knobbs Creek Recreation Center. He said that the producer-director of the film will be on hand for the showing.

5. Adjournment:

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Vivian D. White, CMC/NCCMC
City Clerk