

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City held a joint city/county meeting with the Pasquotank County Commissioners on the above date and time in the Education Center of the Albemarle Hospital. Those attending were: Mayor J. W. Peel, Mayor Pro Tem L. M. Hill-Lawrence, J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, L. A. Hummer, K. K. Spence, J. B. Walton, City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce-Tamplen, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Police Chief E. M. Buffaloe and Parks and Recreation Director B. V. White. Also in attendance were members of the Pasquotank County Commissioners, Assistant County Manager, County Finance Officer, County Clerk and County Attorney. J. A. Stimatz was absent.

Mayor J. W. Peel established a quorum was present and called the City Council meeting to order. Chairman Dixon did likewise for the County Commissioners. The group observed a moment of silent reflection after which he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**1} UPDATE ON MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

Mayor Peel called upon City Manager R. C. Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson advised a \$500,000 CDBG grant was awarded for the middle school project. The City and County each contributed \$75,000 as matching funds. This \$150,000 brought the total grant to \$650,000. Along the way and due to the quantity of renovations needed it was realized that an outside consultant was needed to put together the bid package as well as addressing a number of issues with the HAVC system/electrical system. Hyman and Robey was hired and Mr. Richard Klein was hired as an outside consultant to do the design work. He stated the work has been completed and Sean Robey is here tonight to give an update on the project.

Mr. Robey presented an update on the first floor renovations as well as outlined some of the proposed renovations. The project scope is roughly 24000 square feet. The former cafeteria is not included in this phase of the project. He then went over the scope of work that included the cosmetic improvements, ADA compliance, heating and air conditioning concerns, mold issues, window repair work and work to the exterior cornice. Mr. Robey stated the current estimated cost is \$750,000 to \$800,000 instead of the original \$650,000 cost estimate. This is due to added cornice work that is needed.

Mr. Olson stated the City has made contact with the Division of Community Investment regarding possible de-obligated grant funds. He suggested that bids be put out in order to determine the exact shortfall while he continues to search for additional funding. It was noted that the bid package should be ready to send out in two to three weeks.

**2} AEDC BYLAWS PROPOSED CHANGES:**

Mayor Peel called upon Mr. Wayne Harris, Albemarle Economic Developer who explained the following proposed changes in its bylaws. The proposed changes are as follows:

1} Change the name from Albemarle Economic Development Commission to Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Economic Development Commission. He explained that this proposed name change would better reflect the geographic region that the commission serves.

2} Change the number of ex-officio members to eleven. He explained that would be eliminating Camden County since they are no longer a member.

3} Change the voting member position for the Capital Campaign Advisory Council Chairman to owner or senior executive of an organization ranked among the area's top non-retail employers.

4} Change the wording showing the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month to meetings will be held monthly.

***A motion was made by Councilman R. T. Donnelly, seconded by Councilwoman L. A. Hummer to accept the above noted changes in the bylaws of the Economic Development Commission Those voting in favor of the motion were: Donnelly, Hummer, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Spence and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.***

**3} VISION 2020 UPDATE:**

Mayor Peel presented an update on Vision 2020. In January nine action teams were established to work on nine different areas identified by the steering committee. Each committee is working hard. To date one committee has applied for a \$20,000 grant. The K-12 Education Committee has conducted several meetings within the community. Tomorrow the Business Climate Committee is meeting and that meeting will most likely be their last meeting. They will be forwarding their recommendations for changing policies and procedures to improve the business climate in Elizabeth City.

**4} COLLECTION OF TAXES INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:**

County Attorney Mike Cox briefly went over the Interlocal agreement between the City and County for the collection of taxes. He explained an issue that has occurred regarding tax foreclosures. He explained if a bank is involved the bank will step in and pay the taxes because it doesn't want to lose the property if it has a mortgage on it. If it is a city property, the county doesn't want to bid and own the property. This is not good for the City because the City is not getting its taxes and the county does not want to own the property.

Mr. Olson advised that if the property is over \$5,000 he has the authority to bid on it. He would prefer that it be incorporated in the agreement that the county will deduct whatever the city owes up to the tax value and title it in the City's name. If this is done it will take care of both city and county issues.

Mr. Cox stated he would work on incorporating that language into the Interlocal Agreement.

**5} INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS BUDGET IMPACTS:**

Mayor Peel called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson discussed the joint city-county operations which are either Interlocal agreements, contracts or other agreements. He briefly went over the jointly operated or funded agencies/departments. Both boards are in the process of preparing the FY2013-2014 budgets. To date the City has not received the draft budgets that were specified in the Interlocal Agreements. He further stated that after talking with some of the commissioners it appears that the county does not desire to fund a number of items in the Parks and Recreation Budget. Some members of Council spoke regarding their desire to build a stadium and the multi-purpose field.

**6} COMMENTS:**

Councilwoman Hummer stated she had no further comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill-Lawrence stated she had no further comments.

Councilwoman Baker stated she had attended a few events lately that everyone should support. One was the symphony at ECSU and the Roc-a-Block. She reported that there are some upcoming ribbons cutting scheduled.

Councilman Donnelly requested that no one lose sight of the need for a stadium some time in the future.

Councilman Walton stated he had no further comments.

Councilman Brooks spoke briefly regarding the city being a faith based city. We need to remember how it was when we were a kid.

Mayor Peel thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**7} ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC  
City Clerk

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Joseph W. Peel  
Mayor