

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City held its second regular meeting of the month on the above date and time in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building with Mayor J. W. Peel presiding. Members attending were: J. M. Baker, M. E. Brooks, R. T. Donnelly, L. M. Hill-Lawrence, L. A. Hummer, K. K. Spence, J. A. Stimatz and J. B. Walton. City Staff members attending were: City Manager R. C. Olson, City Clerk D. S. Pierce-Tamplen, City Attorney W. H. Morgan, Planning Director J. C. Brooks, ECDI Director R. Cross, Finance Director S. E. Blanchard, Human Resource Director K. W. Felton, Parks and Recreation Director B. V. White, Inspections Director S. E. Ward, Fire Chief L. M. Mackey and Electric Director K. F. Clow.

Mayor Peel established a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. He called for a moment of silent reflection after which he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1} AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS AND APPROVAL:

Mayor Peel called for the pleasure of City Council regarding the prepared agenda.

Councilwoman L. A. Hummer asked to ***table until September 9, 2013 City Council Meeting, Item #9c- Consideration of a Resolution for a Street Order Closing for Herrington Road and Intersection of South Road Street and Herrington Road.***

Mayor Peel asked to ***add the Committee Reports from the Work Session Agenda.***

Councilman J. B. Walton asked to ***remove Item 8-b Extension of Sub recipient Agreement with the Boys and Girls Club for the Hugh Cale Resource Center from the Consent Agenda and place it on the Regular Agenda for discussion.***

A motion was made by Councilwoman L. A. Hummer, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem L. M. Hill-Lawrence to approve the prepared agenda to include the above noted items. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Hill-Lawrence, Baker, Brooks, Donnelly, Spence, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

2} PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Peel called upon Police Chief E. M. Buffaloe for comments.

Chief Buffaloe advised that Police Officers D. S. Sutton, M. B. Bullock, T. R. Bateman and B. W. Miller were the first to respond to a house fire in the early morning hours of August 19, 2013. The four police officers assisted in extinguishing the fire and getting all occupants of the home to safety. The heroic acts of bravery demonstrated by these officers is deserving of recognition. The National Awards Program awards the "Silver Star of Bravery" for extraordinary heroism performed in the line of duty. A "Silver Star of Bravery" was presented to each office.

3} PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Chelsey Campbell, 122 Sutton Drive, Elizabeth City, NC spoke regarding her opinion of the impact that Elizabeth City State University has on Elizabeth City and her right to impact this city politically.

Mr. Justin Wadell, 1709 Weeksville Road, Elizabeth City, NC spoke regarding his opinion that the local Board of Elections had made a bad decision in denying a fellow student the right to seek public office. He asked the Council where they stood on this issue.

Ms. Leslie Norman, 1704 Weeksville Road, Elizabeth City, NC spoke regarding his right to vote as a student of Elizabeth City State University. He asked members of Council why the students can't vote and have a seat on City Council.

Mr. Kenya Holley, 1704 Weeksville, Road, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 also asked why the students that live on campus can not have a vote or say in the local elections.

Ms. Kiera Sanders, 1704 Weeksville, Road, Elizabeth City, NC 27909 spoke regarding her right to vote and she wanted to know where the Mayor, the two Fourth Ward Councilors and City Council stand on the attack on their constitutional rights to vote and run for public office.

4} APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Peel called for action regarding the August 12 10, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman L. A. Hummer, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to approve the minutes of the April

12, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Hummer, Baker, Brooks, Donnelly, Hill-Lawrence, Spence, Stimatz and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

5} CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Peel called upon City Manager Olson to read the items listed on the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem L. M. Hill-Lawrence to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Hill-Lawrence, Baker, Brooks, Donnelly, Hummer, Spence and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

- a} Approved the Charles Creek Pavilion Change Orders in the amount of \$19,320.81 to A. R. Chesson and \$2,860 to GET Solutions.
- b} Accepted the Certificate of Sufficiency of a Petition for Voluntary Annexation and adopted the following resolution calling for a public hearing to be held on September 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers regarding a parcel containing 7.25 acres located off Forest Park Road (SR1307) and owned by Coastal Beverage Company.

**RESOLUTION #2013-25
FIXING PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION
OF ANNEXATION PURSUANT TO G. S. 160A-31, AS AMENDED
COASTAL BEVERAGE COMPANY, INC.
7.25+/- ACRES LOCATED OFF FOREST PARK ROAD-SR 1307**

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

WHEREAS, the City Council has by resolution directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency thereof; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City, North Carolina:

SECTION 1. That a public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at the Municipal Administration Building in the City Council Chambers at 7:30 PM on September 9, 2013.

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

Beginning at an iron rebar located at the intersection of the eastern right-of-way of Forest Park Road and the northern right-of-way of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad, said iron rebar being further located N 35° 25' 45" W 1,170.24 feet from NGS Monument "Elizabeth RM2"; thence N 22° 21' 03" W 270.17 feet along the northern right-of-way of Forest Park Road to a point marked by a power pole; thence N 65° 16' 13" E 141.86 feet along the property owned by Benjamin House, Inc. to an iron rebar; thence N 65° 16' 13" E 241.21 feet along the property owned by Alexander & Glenna Tunnell to a point; thence N 65° 20' 41" E 254.87 feet along the Tunnell property to an iron rebar; thence N 35° 37' 17" W 202.09 feet along the Tunnell property to an iron rebar; thence N 66° 07' 18" E 157.44 feet along the property owned by McMor Development, LLC to a point; thence along a curve having a radius of 965.00 feet, a distance of 157.29 feet, said line also having a chord bearing and distance of N 70° 47' 28" E 157.11 feet along the McMor Development, LLC property to an iron rebar; thence continuing along the McMor Development, LLC line S 30° 50' 46" E 453.97 feet to an iron rebar located on the northern right-of-way of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad; thence S 65° 19' 15" W 579.21 feet along said railroad right-of-way to a point; thence S 65° 18' 35" W 393.94 feet along said railroad right-of-way to the point and place of beginning, containing 7.25 acres.

SECTION 3. Notice of said public hearing shall be published in the Daily Advance, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Elizabeth City, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of said public hearing.

ADOPTED, this 26th day of August 2013.

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

End of Consent Agenda

6} REGULAR AGENDA:

a} Extension of Sub-Recipient Agreement with Boys and Girls Club:

Mayor Peel called upon City Manager Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson stated included in the package tonight is a second addendum to the Sub-Recipient Agreement for the Hugh Cale Resource Center. We have had a number of delays in the Middle School Project. We are requesting that we enter into this addendum to allow the Boys and Girls Club to continue their operation at the Hugh Cale Center through this coming school year.

Councilman Walton stated again this summer there was not too much activity in the building from his standpoint as pertaining to when he went past there and there was not a lot of activity going on. What do we plan to do with the building after the second recipient agreement has passed if we sign this one?

Mr. Olson replied that sometime in March or April of next year we would request proposals for eligible sub-recipients to go into that facility. As you are well aware we did have another sub-recipient who recently removed themselves from the center. We decided not to put another individual in there to allow when this second addendum is complete someone to go in there and see if they can utilize the facility.

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilman R. T. Donnelly to approve the addendum for the Boys and Girls Club Sub-recipient Agreement. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Donnelly, Baker, Brooks, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, Spence and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

b} Appointment to Airport Authority:

Mayor Peel called for confirmation of Mr. Donald W. Payne to the Elizabeth City Airport Authority for a two-year term ending July 1, 2015.

Roll Call Vote:

Brooks	Yes
Stimatz	Yes
Walton	Yes
Hill-Lawrence	Yes
Hummer	Yes
Baker	Yes
Spence	Yes
Donnelly	Yes

8- yes votes – 0 - no votes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz to suspend the rules on the roll call vote on the rest of the appointments. Councilman M. E. Brooks seconded the motion. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Brooks, Baker, Donnelly, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, Spence and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

c} Reappointments to the Board of Zoning Adjustments for a three year term ending June 20, 2016:

- 1} Carlton Etheridge
- 2} Linwood Bennett
- 3} Jack Horton

Reappointments to ECPC Community Relations Commission for a three year term ending June 30, 2018:

- 1} Dr. Helen Cardwell
- 2} Ms. Rubeina Williams

Reappointment to Historic Preservation Commission for a two year term ending June 15, 2015:

- 1} Dorothy Rosenke

Reappointment to the Senior Citizens Advisory Board for a three year term ending June 30, 2016:

- 1} Parris Sessoms

Appointment to the Joint Animal Control Board for a two year term ending July 1, 2015:

1} Peggy Watts

A motion was made by Councilman J. A. Stimatz, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to approve all of the above appointments/reappointments. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Stimatz, Baker, Brooks, Donnelly, Hill-Lawrence, Hummer, Spence and Walton. Against: None. Motion carried.

d} Business Investment Program:

Mayor Peel called upon Mr. Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson stated the Business Investment Program is a joint document between the City and Pasquotank County. Both city and county staff along with Wayne Harris, our Economic Developer, presented that to the City Council at the July City/County Joint Meeting. Based on comments that were made at the meeting a small subcommittee was appointed to look at some revisions to the Business Investment Plan. We have shown the revisions that were made except for one and that was we lowered the limits from \$3 million to \$2 millions per eligible project. Also, the number of jobs being created stayed the same. The Board of County Commissioners has requested that a grant program for the downtown area be developed but the program we had presented be removed from it at this time. We did a lot of analysis of that and we don't believe as the program as stated within the plan that it would have that great of an impact on the downtown business area. We proposed to work with the County staff to develop another type of grant program to move forward. Eligible businesses include aviation, manufacturing, emerging technologies, logistical and distribution wage. He hit the following highlights of the plan.

- To be eligible for a business investment program you must have an investment of \$2 million

-A minimum of 20 jobs must be created

-Grant participants must pay an average wage rate for all employees at the investment site equal to or greater than 100% of the average wage rate of Pasquotank County.

-First of all you pay your property taxes and then you are granted a percentage of them back over a ten year period. You start at 100% decreasing 10% each year until you get to the tenth year.

- The second one is a \$2 million threshold creating more than 10 jobs but you have to pay 125% of the county's average wage which would be roughly \$36,000 a year. You would do the same type of declining block structure. A 10% decrease over a ten year period.

- A large project and that is where the capital investment is more than \$100 million and you create more than 100 jobs and the wage has to be the county average. The first five years you would receive a 90% grant of the property taxes you pay and then it would decrease by 10% over the next five years.

Mr. Olson stated eligible Investment Zones include Halstead Boulevard, the Aviation Park and the County's Commerce Park.

Councilman Walton stated this is a big chance to increase for those who have already but it is still not looking out for the downtown segment. It seems to him that things were strategized to make certain points available and look good at certain times. If you can give incentives to the big companies, he doesn't see why you can't strategize and give incentives to the downtown members. These are the mom and pop businesses that we should be looking out for. We are not looking out for them and all of a sudden we are looking out for big investors. Did we recruit them or did they recruit us? Are you talking about us investing money?

Mr. Olson stated we did an analysis that if we provided using the same premises that we used in these other program a grant based on the increase in property taxes. What we did find out is that a downtown merchant could spend \$50 to \$200,000 in a building however their assessed valuation which they pay property taxes on would not increase. They would not receive any grants based on an increase in property taxes. With that in mind we believe a separate grant pool needs to be developed jointly between the City and the County that would target small businesses downtown and other areas of the City. He is working with county staff right now to develop such a program. The difference between the business investment program and the other program is in the Business Investment Program we are providing you back an incremental part of the new property taxes you pay. The problem with the downtown area is they are not going to pay additional property taxes in all likelihood. We have to develop a program that will address the needs within the City. We are looking at a straight grant program with both the city and county sharing equally. The big difference between the two programs is that you are receiving additional money under the Business Investment Program. You are giving part of that money back to the businesses. He thinks we have a frame work of what we would like to accomplish.

A motion was made by Councilman R. T. Donnelly, seconded by Councilwoman J. M. Baker to approve the modified Business Investment Plan as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Brooks	No
Stimatz	Yes
Walton	No
Hill-Lawrence	Yes
Hummer	Yes
Baker	Yes
Spence	No
Donnelly	Yes

6 – Yes – 2 – No Motion carried

e} False Alarms:

Mayor Peel called upon Mr. Olson for comments.

Mr. Olson stated this item came up at your last meeting and staff was instructed to provide some information. Chief has done that in his memo and he is here to discuss what his findings were:

Chief Buffaloe stated that over the years the police department and many other law enforcement agencies respond to alarm calls from local businesses that are sometimes false in nature. However, the 911 Center treats those as if the actual crime is occurring at that time and respond according to the protection of life and property. However, upon arrival we found that some of those calls are unfounded and they take up a lot of our time and resources. The breakdown is in your packet. As you can see over a three year period we responded to 4,951 alarm calls. 85% of those calls were false. 7% of those calls were actual alarm calls. Approximately 15 minutes is tied up in these particular alarm calls. That would be 62,940 minutes which equates to 1,049 hours. Our protocol at our Central Communications is that we dispatch two patrol units to every alarm call for safety reasons. 85% of those dispatched have been false. If you are thinking about a policy you have to implement something fair across the board. During our last storm we had a pole that was struck by lightning at 2:00 a.m. Between two and five we had 25 alarm calls based on that pole being struck by lightning.

Councilman Stimatz asked that staff come back at the next work session with a standard of what we should do. We can say thanks but we don't like it but it would be something that we could focus on.

7} COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Albemarle Economic Development Commission:

Councilwoman Hummer stated we met last week and Chairman Griffin called for a Marketing Committee meeting which will be on Wednesday in the ECDI office to look at a new marketing concept for Elizabeth City. Also, the Business Investment Program was presented at that meeting and it was passed by the County Commissioners last week. The Mayor's Vision 2020 Economic Development Action Team gave an update at the July meeting. They are preparing their final report and they plan to suggest and identify companies in the Hampton Roads area that will most likely benefit from the growth generated by the Panama Canal widening based on our proximity to the Hampton Roads area. Once those companies are identified they will make recommendations as to which one among that group will most benefit by expanding into Elizabeth City area. That team is trying to get the large companies coming to our area, On Thursday there is a Golden Leaf community assistance initiative work shop at the COA campus in Edenton.

Central Communications:

Councilman Walton stated we met and they have decided to use someone directly from the Sheriff Departments at this time. They also decided to not meet monthly but meet quarterly.

Firemen's Relief Fund:

Councilman Spence stated we have not met.

Northeastern Municipal Power Agency:

City Manager Olson stated that our August meeting was cancelled due to the Annual Electricities Meeting in Asheville.

Elizabeth City Downtown:

Councilman Donnelly stated the Film Festival was successful as Mid Atlantic opened up their chapel to cover some of the rain dates. The Music Festival is going on now every Tuesday night from six to eight p.m. Come on downtown and see all the good things that are happening.

Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce:

Mayor Peel stated the meeting was held last week and we welcomed two new members to that Board. One of the main things was the discussion of the budget and also thanking people for participating in Coast Guard Week.

Finance Committee:

Councilwoman Hummer stated all the items that we discussed in the Finance Meeting were on the agenda for Council's action tonight.

Parks and Recreation Board:

Councilman Walton stated we did not meet.

Alleyway Committee:

Councilwoman Hummer stated we made our recommendations and she sees that crews are still working on things that we reported.

Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Airport Authority:

Councilman Stimatz stated we met last week. Neither of the two new members has been sworn in as yet. We did some preliminary work on strategizing for the airport development land use potential partnership with various industries and groups. Then the good news is the DOD fuel contract. They had an inspection by the person that inspects the facilities and the man that has been doing this for 20 years said he has never been to a facility and found nothing wrong. We had a perfect inspection and we anticipate to be selling fuel very soon.

Stormwater Advisory Board:

Mr. Donnelly stated that Paul Fredette gave an excellent overview of the Tiber Creek Stormwater Management Program. It was a power point presentation and he learned that the pump station down by the Daily Advance handles over 340 acres of land. That is a lot of water that flows down that way.

Tourism Development Authority:

Councilwoman Baker stated we had a short meeting last Thursday and there was nothing earth shattering to report.

8} COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Councilman Brooks stated although it shouldn't be happening he is elated to see the students from ECSU continuing the "We shall overcome" vow of the Civil Rights movement. In our Constitution somewhere he read about the freedom of assembly. Somewhere he read about the freedom of speech. Somewhere he read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. He tells students to continue to stand and he will stand with them. Stand as firm as those who came before you when Bull Conner said bring the dogs forward and they went on saying we ain't going to let nobody turn me around. Stand. When they put the fire hoses on those who struggled for their basic civil rights. Stand. Just as they did when they were taken away in paddy wagons. Stand. He has got your back. Not only does he have your back but the United States Constitution has your back. No one has the right to deny you equal protection under the law on the Fourteenth Amendment. It doesn't matter. He believes the State Board of Elections will overturn this. If they don't overturn this then we have a problem in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. We can not deny someone equal access to the polls. In saying that he would like to make the following motion.

A motion was made by Councilman M. E. Brooks, seconded by Councilman J. B. Walton that this Council send a letter to the Board of Elections stating that this Council supports the students at Elizabeth City State University right to vote and not violating the 14th Amendment equal protection under the Law.

Councilman Stimatz stated he doesn't think anyone on this Council will have any problems with such a letter. We all believe that everybody has the right to vote in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina and the United States of America. He is not in a position to comment on what the Board of Elections did because he does not have all the facts as they had. He only got what he got out of the paper. It was a rather sleeping decision in a lot of ways. It brings into question the right of a student to vote in a community in which they are attending school in. It does not call into question their right to vote but it does call into question where they vote. That has been an issue in this city for some time and it has also been an issue for candidates for office, residency. It has never been adequately addressed. So, hopefully, the State Board will address it in some manner, whatever that might be. It might have to go to court to be resolved. He does not know what they based their decision on. He is confused as anybody. In addition he will tell you that he believes the State Legislature has gone way beyond the bounds of equality in addressing the whole voter ID issue. To say that a State issued ID is not sufficient when in fact that State Election Laws say it is. To say that an ID issued by a University is not a government issued ID is ludicrous. He can understand the concern about people voting where they are supposed to vote when they are supposed to vote because there is a lot tied up in that. But he doesn't believe that anyone's right to vote should be denied. He thinks the problem here is where you have that right to vote and that is probably going to end up in court. There really is no way around that. He would say he has no problem sending a letter from us saying we support everyone's right, in particularly the students' right to vote in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina and the United States.

Councilman Brooks stated at the last Council meeting he stated when he joined the military he lived in the barracks. But when it came time to vote he used that barracks address as where he lived. He could vote in that State. That is no different than these students at Elizabeth City State University. It has been a blatant attack on the students at ECSU. The problem is bigger than ECSU. Our constitution starts with "We the people". Somewhere down the line we have to say wait a minute. How in the world are we going to justify if he can vote using the dorm as his address he should be able to seek a seat using a dorm address. It doesn't make any sense. This is the law. If the State Board does not overturn this it will be the biggest mess Elizabeth City and the State of North Carolina has ever seen.

Councilwoman Hummer stated the Daily Advance printed an excerpt last week of the NC law on this subject. They said the local Board of Elections had broken the law. It is her opinion according to what was printed she has to agree with their opinion that the law was broken. She thinks the whole thing coming out of Raleigh where not only students but the elderly and the poor are also being disenfranchised. Provisional ballots are going to be thrown out. The early voting period has been shortened and you can't take someone to the polls anymore. There are a lot of elderly people that can't drive that depend on their neighbors to take them to the polls. She thinks whatever is decided is the way Elizabeth City is going to look. She thinks our local Board of Elections has set a precedent and if it is upheld we are not going to look very good.

Councilman Donnelly stated it was brought to his attention as well that from a practical level who pays for this if there is a change. The City will pay for that. That is coming out of taxpayers' dollars. He also totally agrees with the report that come out of the Daily Advance that he thought gave a great summary of the position. He wants to commend the students for coming out to participate in the democratic process.

Mayor Peel called for a vote on the motion.

Roll Call Vote

<i>Brooks</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Stimatz</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Walton</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Hill-Lawrence</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Hummer</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Baker</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Spence</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Donnelly</i>	<i>Yes</i>

8 – yes votes – 0 – no votes. Motion carried.

Councilman Stimatz stated he had no further comments.

Councilman Walton stated he would like for the students to know that he supports them dearly. He supported them in 2007 and at that election Pete Gilbert's wife ran and she was going out at ECSU soliciting votes and that kind of tells you a lot about him. In 2009 he did the same thing and in 2011 he did the same thing. Here we go again in 2013. Eight years of it, but the sad thing about it when he came to council about it this year he could only get one or two people to support what he was trying to say about people on this council supporting Mr. Gilbert. As a matter of fact when the decision was made by the

local Board of Elections in the newspaper the very next day Mr. Donnelly you did support the students. There were others on this council that did not support them. Sometimes we don't say anything and that is what he blames this city and the county for. The county residents wasted \$35,000-\$40,000 on supporting somebody that is not correct or not doing the right thing. This council will come up here and not say a word. He couldn't get anybody to ok what he said about a council member saying congratulations Mr. Gilbert. That was wrong. He doesn't care how this thing came out that was wrong. Nobody said anything but Mr. Brooks and he. That is the type of stuff we have in this city and that is why this city looks the way it does now. We still do the same thing. We vote and don't give a viewpoint of why we are voting a certain way. If you can't give a viewpoint then you don't need to vote. Nobody knows where you stand as you are just voting along with the crowd. The young man should run because it is the right thing to do. It should have happen right here. If he has something to say then he is going to say it. If it is defensive to somebody then so be it. You will get over it. One other thing Mr. Olson, when can we put signs out? Another thing there will be a rally at the Museum of the Albemarle at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Olson replied 30 days before the election in private facilities and 45 days in public places.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill-Lawrence said she would like to say that she would like to thank the event that took place on Sunday with the barbers cutting the students hair. Mr. Turner has made this event such a success.

Councilwoman Hummer stated she would like to request that the mosquito truck go in her neighborhood once again as there is still a problem with mosquitos.

Councilwoman Baker stated she wanted to say what a great job that Public Works did today. She just happened to notice because she had a six foot pile of trimmings and debris in her yard. It is great to see them and how they work together. A couple of hours behind them the street sweeper came which she hadn't seen in a while. She will say that Mr. Walton is right that everyone has the right to say how they feel. Some people when they say how they feel they are picked apart every single time but she still has a right to say how she feels. She said the students have a right to vote in accordance with the laws of North Carolina. She believes that there is a difference between a student living in a dorm to a military living on a barracks in her opinion. That is her opinion and she has a right to say it. She thinks that a student that lives in an apartment is home and they should vote in local elections. She thinks a student living in a dorm has every right to vote in their home. She happens to feel if they are living in a dorm it is not their full time home. When they close the dorm they go home whether it is to Raleigh, Charlotte or Snow Hill. That is her opinion and she has a right to it. To deny somebody the right to vote is wrong

and she doesn't think anybody is trying to deny anybody the right to vote. She thinks we will see it go to court and we will see how it comes out. Our constitution gives us the right to vote and nobody should take that away when it is done the proper way.

Councilman Spence stated he happened to be at ECSU on Sunday for the back to school bash which was awesome. It is good to see city employees out and participating in those activities. To the college students it is amazing that you are interested in these issues. To see the youth now putting forward the effort is quite awesome. He wants you to keep on doing what you are doing. What you do for Christ will last.

Councilman Donnelly stated he has a few things. A week or so ago Montero's and the schools got together for the Safe School Program. Every school in Elizabeth City is now a Safe School thanks to the entire community in contributing money to the whole fund raising process. Today the kids have schools that are extremely safe. If you have not seen it he would recommend you go visit the schools. Secondly, there was an assumption made by one of the counselors during the discussion about the Business Investment Plan. Kind of leaving the impression that most people are going to move away and not stay with the community. That assumption should not have been made based on our rules of etiquette here in the Council. Other than that thank you everyone for our profitable and worthwhile meeting.

Mayor Peel stated he would conclude by thanking the students from ECSU for coming. He would especially like to salute Mr. King for the commitment and courage to follow through on his convictions. He is not sure when he was your age he would have done that. He thinks that says a lot about you. He thought you conducted yourself extremely well during the television show the other night except when you arrange for the airplane to buzz. That was a special touch. The K-12 Education Committee have placed an online survey that we are asking teachers, parents and students that have knowledge of the school district to take it. It is located on the city's website. Shortly the Building Strong Families Committee will also have an online survey that will be on the city's website and they are asking for participation as well. The whole purpose of Vision 2020 has been to develop a community plan and your input into these committees is extremely important and valuable in this whole process. Last week Chief Buffalo and he conducted a meeting with pastors throughout the City and County talking about ways that we might better engage with the spiritual community and how we might work together to solve some of the issues we have in the City and also to talk about some ways that they might work more closely with one another. We had about 60 people to attend. It went extremely well. He thinks the passing of the Business Investment Program is a huge step in the right direction.

It gives our economic development people a significant tool to be able to work to attract businesses of all kinds to our area.

9} ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Mayor Peel adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Dianne S. Pierce-Tamplen, MMC
City Clerk

Joseph W. Peel
Mayor

DRAFT