



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 5:15 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

Present: Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor
Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem
Carol H. Cowen)
Suetta S. Scarbrough)
Wayne Smith)

Council Members

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager
Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney
Traci Storey, City Clerk
Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director
Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Andy Bryant, Police Captain
Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director
Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

Absent: Councilman Ernest C. Bobbitt
Chuck Hasty, Police Chief
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie asked Council members about any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for August 7, 2018 as presented.

Public Comment (Scheduled)

Scott Aman

Mr. Aman of New Dixie Oil Corporation expressed his concerns regarding the proposed NCDOT widening project of NC Hwy. 125. He stated he was absolutely supportive of NCDOT's widening of NC Hwy. 125 and making the improvements, but believes they have oversized it. He said he would be speaking as a business owner of New Dixie Oil and as a taxpayer. New Dixie Oil owns a convenience store on Hwy. 125 at I-95. A very large and significant part of their business is the morning traffic. Morning traffic consists of people traveling from Roanoke Rapids to Halifax, Halifax Academy or I-95. Right now people can conveniently pull into his convenient mart. He stated he was using that word because it was very important to them. They are not a destination location, they were not the DMV or Rural Health Group; they are a convenience retailer. So convenience and ease of access to their property was very important to their business. NCDOT's current plan shows a four-lane divided highway. The project starts at Touchstone Bank to I-95. That four-lane divided highway will include a twenty-three (23) foot grassed median that will control left hand turns. People will not be able to make a left hand turn conveniently into his business as they do today. They will have to go to the traffic light, make a left hand turn onto Premier Boulevard or Sheraton Drive (or whatever they will call it) and take another left hand turn into his business. That is not very convenient and they are a convenience store. He stated that was a real problem for him.

He said now he was going to take his New Dixie hat off and put his local tax payer hat on. He stated there was not a single individual that he has spoken with that was a landowner on Hwy. 125 who wants a grass median and controlled left hand turns and wants this improvement plan to be as large as NCDOT has planned it. He said all the landowners along that corridor he has spoken to simply just want NCDOT to finish Hwy. 125 like they started. He said from Wendy's to Touchstone Bank there are five lanes, two out, two in with a turn lane in the middle so no landowner gets negatively impacted by controlled left hand turns, and it is a smaller road. The fact that it is a smaller road since it does not have a 23-foot grassed median takes less taxable, economically developable property away from landowners. That is important. When you have a piece of property on one side of the road and people can't get to you, it will negatively impact the marketability of that property. He was thinking about the rest of those properties that are up and down that corridor that there are hopes for this community that some tax-based commercialization may come along to help develop the rest of that interchange, which is very important and needed.

He said he presented this subject to the Halifax County Board of Commissioners yesterday. They have elected to adopt a resolution and he was requesting the City Council do the same which basically asks NCDOT to finish the development of that road like they started from Wendy's to Touchstone Bank. And to not make it as wide as they planned, as restrictive as they have planned nor as impactful as they have planned. He stated those were his concerns and asked if they had any questions.

Mayor Doughtie stated he knew it was a time-sensitive issue and asked Mr. Aman if City Council decides to move forward with his request, would the next City Council meeting on August 21st be suitable. Mr. Aman replied if they could do so as soon as possible because NCDOT is at work. They are talking to landowners, working on values, negotiations and imminent domain. He reported he has been working with NCDOT since late last year. When they held their public meeting in this building on October 24th, he started communicating his concerns with this. NCDOT has presented him with an option which would be a controlled left hand turn into his property, but on the property line of his property and Frank Edwards' property. He said that may be a wise solution for many businesses but it does not work very well for his business. He said an example of this was Chick-Fil-A and Starbucks and their shared driveway. He stated that was like a salmon swimming upstream; now try to drive an eighteen-wheeler through that and how that was going to work.

It was the consensus of the City Council to direct City Manager Scherer to create a resolution as requested to be considered at the August 21, 2018 City Council meeting.

Public Comment (Unscheduled)

Bishop Shelton Daniel

Bishop Daniel, Senior Pastor of Greater Joy North Church located at 1711 E. 10th Street in Roanoke Rapids and also 820 Nashville Road in Rocky Mount. He was also CEO of Joy Community Development Corporation which is a 501(c)(3). He said this corporation serves Nash, Halifax, Edgecombe and other surrounding communities. Joy Community Development Corporation has placed focus on community strengthening. It has been their aim to do this through connecting people with available services. Because of the economic changes we are currently facing, they are attempting to provide their constituents and our community members with services to help tackle the ills they deal with today. They are currently providing a food bank on 10th Street several times a month, periodic adult

literacy, computer skills, CPR, computer repair, resume writing and things of that sort. Emergency shelter during inclement weather where they are a place people can show up during the tough times of winter weather to get out of the cold. They provide financial support with a system called Joy Impact Center that helps in crisis time with housing, utilities and critical medicines. It is their belief they will stimulate the economic growth and social progress and it will take the local government, local businesses and faith based organizations to work together collaboratively to assist with the daily challenges. He announced on September 8th Joy Community Development Corporation will host its annual Community for Unity Festival. For ten years, this has been a success in Nash and Edgecombe Counties. This year for the first time in 10 years, they were bringing it back to Halifax County. This festival held a few weeks ago in Nash County serviced more than 3,500 people during the event. They also provided OTC medication for 700 individuals. They would be bringing this particular service to the September 8th event. There will be no charge and no funds will be exchanged, this was their event along with business partners giving back to the community. The dental bus will be present to provide cleanings, extractions, fillings along with health services such as blood pressure checks, cholesterol etc. They will have a mobile pharmacy where NC MedAssist will be on site to provide medicine for uninsured people and give insured people the opportunity to enroll in programs to receive free prescriptions and medications through MedAssist. MedAssist will help give out 150,000 boxes of OTC medications such as cold, flu, cough and children's medicine. This was a collaborative effort of the Council on Aging, Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, MedAssist and Greater Joy Church and Joy Community Development Corporation. He announced they would have chicken, hotdogs, hamburgers, cotton candy, popcorn along with rides, games and all kinds of activities for the kids. They think it is not just City Council's job to help the people of the city; this is their effort to do their part. He stated they were not asking for anything except for the City to partner with them and he invited everyone to attend.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked how his corporation was funded. Bishop Daniel replied it was funded by churches and individuals while the MedAssist piece was coming from the Council on Aging and Cardinal Innovations. These are donations so they can make sure all of this gets into the community. It is through Greater Joy Church and Word Tabernacle in Rocky Mount. This time they have Twilight Baptist Church – Pastor Danny Jones, Reverend Burrell from First Baptist Church and a number of individuals making donations. He said they did not have a grant that was funding the event.

Approval of Council Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to approve the July 17, 2018 Regular Meeting minutes as written.

Committee Appointments/Reappointments

Beautification Committee

City Clerk Storey reported the terms of Joyce Tillery and Steve Holliday for the Beautification Committee will expire August 9, 2018. The term for Sarah Carpenter will also expire August 9th but she has informed me and the chairman that she did not wish to serve another term, therefore creating a vacancy. The Committee Chairman, Chris Lehman said once the committee reconvenes next month, they may have someone that will apply for the vacancy and she will bring it before Council when she receives that application.

She stated Council took a ballot vote earlier and Ms. Tillery and Mr. Holliday received a unanimous vote to be reappointed. They have served the maximum number of 2 consecutive terms allowed by City Policy and requested Council make a motion to waive the City Policy and reappoint Ms. Tillery and Mr. Holliday to the Beautification Committee.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to waive the City Policy and reappoint Ms. Tillery and Mr. Holliday to the Beautification Committee.

Mayor Doughtie added that several Council members have said this in the past, they are not reappointing people because they did not want new people on committees so if anyone is interested in serving on a committee, they ask them to bring their name(s) forth. But these individuals have served two consecutive terms and they were extending it because they want to continue to serve. He confirmed there was one opening on the Beautification Committee now.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer reported the City Departments provided outstanding responses to situations caused by yesterday's violent storm. The Fire Department responded quickly to a townhome struck by lightning which caused a fire in the attic area and the Public Works responded to flooded streets and other areas. The

Police Department responded to wrecks caused by wet road conditions and poor visibility. At one point the storm measured over 8 inches of rainfall an hour according to a local weather monitoring location. City radio communications were affected due to lightning, but have since been restored.

He said the Finance Department is preparing for its annual audit which is scheduled to begin the week of August 27th.

He reported the Fire Department has begun working on emergency response plans at three local assisted care facilities. (Guardian Care, Laurel Glen and Chapel Ridge apartments). Their intent is to have incident action plans in place if they ever have a need to respond to an emergency at these locations with their unique populations.

City Manager Scherer announced the BARC Committee is having an Employee Luncheon on Wednesday, August 15th at the Kirkwood Adams Community Center. It will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will be free of charge to all employees. The luncheon is the committee's way of saying thanks to all the employees who have supported their efforts. The Mayor and City Council are cordially invited to attend.

He said the Parks and Recreation Department received a \$1,000 grant from the Carolina Panthers professional football team. The grant will be used to purchase reversible jerseys for the youth football season. The Department is again offering a Hunter Safety Course that began yesterday and runs through tomorrow. This course is required for all first-time registered hunters and is the only one offered in this area. The new concession/restroom building at Chockoyotte Park has been completed. The last day for the outdoor pool to be open is August 18th.

He stated the Planning Department has several site plans on review and are awaiting developer responses to their comments. Ms. Lasky has been working on information needed for the upcoming 2020 Census. The new owners of the Carolina Inn had hired a contractor to begin renovation of the building to bring it into compliance with several codes, but the contractor has now quit the project.

He reported that Public Works has begun to do their annual painting of street crossing lines at all school zones, along with continuing to provide mosquito control spraying and grass cutting as best they can around the large amount of rain we continue to experience. They have begun to install a special water fixture at the 1026 Roanoke Avenue venue.

City Manager Scherer said the Police Department conducted a successful canned food drive last Friday at two Food Lion locations. The donations will be given to Angel's Closet. Their annual National Night Out event is tonight right after the meeting at the Centre at Halifax Community College. Chief Hasty has been appointed by the NC Chief's Association as their Region 9 Director. The Department plans on continuing to conduct traffic enforcement campaigns in the near future, especially around the Labor Day holiday. The Department has some opening due to retirements and departures.

He said in their packet is a copy of the North Carolina League of Municipalities End of Session Bulletin, with the description of bills affecting municipalities and the outcome of each.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked Parks & Recreation Director Simeon to elaborate on the facility rental/reservations at the Chaloner Recreation Center. He reported due to the PARTF grant and construction, they have temporarily stopped taking reservations for the month of September until they find out on August 24th if the City will receive PARTF grant funds. After that, they will sit down with contractors and get a specific date ready for construction, depending on the amount of dollars they have at that point with the two grants.

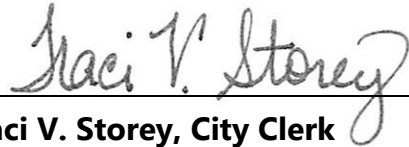
Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee said citizens were concerned that the center was closed and confirmed that this was just temporary. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon said yes, it was just temporary and they did not want to take reservations in September if they were going to start construction; so they have just halted the reservations for now.

Mayor Doughtie stated in reference to the Carolina Inn, it seemed unusual for a contractor to quit a job. It concerns him whether they were going to get someone and with the things taken out of the building, he did not want to see it lapse into situation like some other buildings. He said he knows that City staff will stay on top of it. City Manager Scherer stated they were trying to follow the court order that was issued against the property. Supposedly there were new owners that were buying the property, but apparently that has not occurred yet. The City has posted notices on the property stating they need to get back and follow code requirements to either close it or bring it up to building and health codes.

Mayor Doughtie asked if he was saying the individuals that said they were going to buy it are not going to buy it now. City Manager Scherer replied they did not know. They just know they have not followed through and bought the property yet.

Other Business

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Traci V. Storey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: August 21, 2018