

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

(Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting was livestreamed @<https://www.twitch.tv/rockinghamupdate>.)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor John M. “Jay” Donecker
Mayor Pro Tem Harry L. Brown (*via conference call at 6:08 p.m.*)
Councilman James K. Festerman (*via conference call*)
Councilman Donald L. Gorham
Councilman William Hairston
Councilmember Terresia Scoble (*via conference call at 6:08 p.m.*)
Councilwoman Sherri G. Walker

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

NONE

CITY STAFF PRESENT:
(staff attended via conference call)

Preston W. Mitchell, City Manager
Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk
William F. McLeod, City Attorney
(attended in person)
Chris Phillips, Assistant City Manager of Administration
Haywood Cloud, Assistant City Manager of Community Services
Chuck Smith, Public Works Director
Leigh Anne Bassinger, Human Resources Director
Donna Setliff, Community Development Manager

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION.

Councilman William Hairston, Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, 111 Regent Trail, Reidsville, provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Council then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 5-0 vote, to approve the Consent Agenda.

(Mayor Pro Tem Brown and Councilmember Scoble were not yet on the conference call.)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 10, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, THE MARCH 25, 2020 EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES AND THE APRIL 3, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, the March 25, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes and the April 3, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ABANDON AN UNDEVELOPED RIGHT OF WAY OFF MCCOY ROAD, WHICH CALLS FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON MAY 12, 2020.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the following Resolution of Intent based on Community Development Manager’s memo (A COPY OF DONNA SETLIFF’S MEMO DATED APRIL 2, 2020 IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

The Resolution of Intent follows:

RESOLUTION OF INTENT

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CLOSING AN UNDEVELOPED RIGHT OF WAY OFF McCOY ROAD

SC2020-01

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-299 authorizes the City Council to close public streets and alleys; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considers it advisable to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of giving consideration to close an undeveloped right of way off McCoy Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that:

- (1) A public hearing will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, in City Hall Council Chambers, 230 West Morehead Street, to consider a resolution to close an undeveloped right of way off McCoy Road. The right of way is approximately 25 feet wide and is approximately 400 feet long and is further described as:

BEGINNING at a point marking the intersection of McCoy Road (Public Road) and the

southeast corner of Lot 26 as shown on Map entitled “Map No. 1 of the Fair View Farm” as recorded in Map Book 5, Page 69, Rockingham County Register of Deeds (said Map at all times being incorporated herein by reference for a more particular description); thence with the southern line of Lot 26 in a westerly direction, 200.00 feet to a point marking the common corner with Lot 72; thence continuing with the southern line of Lot 72 in a westerly direction, 200.00 feet to a point marking the southwest corner of Lot 72; thence S 7 deg W 25.00 feet to the northwest corner of Lot 72; thence S 7 deg W 25.00 feet to the northwest corner of Lot 73; thence with the north line of Lot 73, 200.00 feet in an easterly direction to the northwest corner of Lot 27; thence continuing with the northern line of Lot 27, 200.00 feet in an easterly direction to a point marking the northeast corner of Lot 27; thence N 8 deg E 25.00 feet to the southeast corner of Lot 26, being the POINT AND PLACE OF BEGINNING and being that area designated as “25 ‘ Public Road” on the aforementioned Plat.

- (2) The City Clerk is hereby directed to publish this Resolution of Intent once a week for four successive weeks in Rockingham Now.
- (3) The City Clerk is further directed to transmit by registered or certified mail to each owner of property abutting upon that portion of said street a copy of this Resolution of Intent.
- (4) The City Clerk is further directed to cause adequate notices of this Resolution of Intent and the scheduled public hearing to be posted as required by G.S. 160A-299.

This the 14th day of April, 2020.

/s/ _____
John M. “Jay” Donecker
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC
City Clerk

-- End of Consent Agenda --

APPROVAL OF INTERIM PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Mayor Donecker asked for staff briefing on the enclosed document. City Manager Mitchell clarified the document is modeled after the one recently approved by the Rockingham County Commissioners, except for the fact that they meet twice a month. The Mayor asked if members of Council had any questions? No questions were offered.

Councilwoman Walker made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and approved in a 5-0 vote, to approve the Interim Procedures for Public Comment.

The Procedures as approved follows:



INTERIM PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- I. **Purpose:** the purpose of this document is to authorize a temporary policy change to the procedures for public comment at Reidsville City Council meetings during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy will provide for public comment in a fair, consistent and informative manner in accordance with the requirements of North Carolina General Statute 160A-81.1 while protecting the health and safety of Reidsville citizens and public officials during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- II. **Background:** In compliance with Governor Cooper's Executive Order No. 121, which mandates social distancing measures to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the Reidsville City Council recognizes the need to modify procedures for public comment during open Council meetings. The modification of public comment procedures during this time will allow the Council to hear issues of public concern while protecting public health and safety.
- III. **Procedures:** City Council is appreciative for the presence and participation of each individual in the public comment period held during the Council's regular monthly meeting and for the courtesy and cooperation of each speaker in abiding by the following procedures:
 1. All citizens desiring to speak during the Public Comment period must register on the sheets provided by the City Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting. The person wishing to speak must identify his/her name, address and the topic on which he/she will be commenting.
 2. In compliance with the Executive Order's mandate for gatherings of no more than ten (10) persons, citizens will wait in designated areas and be called into the Council Chambers upon his/her turn to speak.
 3. While in waiting areas, citizens must maintain a minimum distance of six (6) feet from others.
 4. Depending on the number of persons signed up for the public comment period, the City reserves the right to have citizens remain in their vehicles to wait until being called into the Council Chambers to speak.
 5. In addition to these modifications, all rules and procedures directed in the Rules Governing Public Comments at Reidsville City Council Regular Monthly Meetings and authorized by the Reidsville City Council on September 19, 2007, will remain in effect.

Adopted this 14th day of April, 2020.

/s/ _____
John M. "Jay" Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk

PRESENTATION ON INTERIM REMOTE PARTICIPATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Mayor Donecker asked City Attorney Bill McLeod Jr. to clarify legally if the Reidsville City Council can participate remotely, via telephones, for official City Council meetings. Attorney McLeod stated, as outlined in the packets, the North Carolina General Statute does not specifically address remote participation but does not forbid it. He continued that Council does have to abide by open meetings law by notifying the general public of the meeting. He stated Council needs to make the meeting available by remote means, especially if the public is encouraged to continue to practice social-distancing.

Mayor Donecker clarified that it is permitted for one member of Council, for example himself, to be present at City Hall and to lead the City Council meeting with other members calling in via telephone as long as it is live-streamed and made available to the public. Attorney McLeod reiterated a quorum would need to be present and would need to identify themselves when making or seconding a motion and when voting on items addressed at the meeting. Mayor Donecker asked if any members of Council had any questions for the City Attorney? With no one voicing any questions, the Mayor thanked the City Attorney for addressing the matter.

Mayor Donecker asked the City Clerk Angela Stadler if she needed further clarification on the notification process. She responded that she did not and that she would take care of posting the notice and notifying the public.

COVID-19 UPDATE.

Via telephone, Annie Penn Hospital President Cindy Farrand gave City Council an update on the local COVID-19 pandemic, reviewing a PowerPoint slide presentation. (A COPY OF THE POWERPOINT SLIDES ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Mayor Donecker asked for clarification regarding several items covered in the presentation, including the number of masks and supplies the hospital has on hand and the length of time it takes to get results back when tested for the virus. President Farrand said at this time she does not have exact numbers about masks and supplies but would get that information and report back. She said the turnaround time on test results is now two hours.

Mayor Donecker asked if members of Council had any questions? Councilwoman Walker asked if people should be concerned about spreading COVID-19 on the bottom of

their shoes? President Farrand stated members of Cone Health staff have been asked to use foot covers while at work and then to remove and dispose of them after they exit the hospital. She covered other suggested precautions such as showering after their shift and bringing a change of clothes, including shoes. She stressed many staff members are likewise concerned with unintentionally taking the virus home to their families.

Mayor Donecker expressed his concern for information shared on Slide #9 regarding demographics related to adult children being “shedders” and the possibility of them transferring the virus to their parents. He stressed the Stay at Home Order needs to be observed for everyone’s safety.

Upon completion of the presentation, Council members thanked Ms. Farrand and her staff for their efforts during this crisis. In turn, Ms. Farrand thanked the Council and City for their support.

CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECT FUNDING AND AUTHORIZATION OF MAYOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS.

In providing the staff report, Chris Phillips, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, referenced his memo dated April 3, 2020, which follows:

MEMORANDUM – CDBG GRANTS

To: Preston Mitchell, City Manager
From: Chris Phillips, Asst. City Manager/Finance Director
Date: April 3, 2020

The City of Reidsville has been awarded two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The City Council approved applying for both of these grants previously and held required public hearings. At this time, we are asking the City Council to accept the grants and to authorize the Mayor to execute the grant documents. Below is a short description of both grants:

CDBG – Infrastructure

The CDBG-I award is for \$1,999,298 to rehabilitate or replace approximately 7,800 linear feet of deteriorated 8-inch sewer line in the areas of Hart Street, Washington Avenue, Circle Drive, Terry Street and Wray Street. This area has had issues due to an aging system originally constructed in the 1920’s.

CDBG – Neighborhood Revitalization

The CDBG-NR award is for \$692,828. Of that amount, \$525,000 was allocated for rehabilitation of privately owned dwellings. The Historic District of Reidsville was used for the application and an inventory of eligible homes was identified. To qualify the homeowner(s) must live in the property and be low to moderate income. The application also included funding for a neighborhood facility; specifically, a shelter will be constructed in the “Depot District” on Martin Luther

King, Jr. Drive. The shelter is planned to capture architecture elements from Reidsville's historic depot that was razed in the 1990s.

The application for this grant was for a total of \$750,000, but the grant award is for only \$692,828, \$57,172 less than requested. The reduction in the grant budget is in the line item for the shelter portion of the project. Attached is a Budget Ordinance Amendment to allocate \$57,172 in Fund Balance to bring the project budget back to the original plan if the City Council chooses to do such. There is a chance that funds obligated for other awards could be returned that could be reallocated to fund the remainder of the project from CDBG.

Full award packages for both grants have been included along with this memo.
(END OF MEMO)

Phillips stated he is before Council tonight to ask for approval to accept the CDBG-I and CDBG-NR grants and to authorize the Mayor to execute the grant documents and the accompanying Budget Ordinance Amendment in the amount of \$57,172 so the project can move forward and be completed.

Councilmember Scoble asked what the timeline was for these projects? Phillips noted that both of these grants have milestones associated with them. He stated the sewer project is projected to go through 2021-2022 and for the Neighborhood Revitalization, this will be done in phases with the homeowners applying for the loans. He said the grant does not have a calendar because there are so many moving parts to the process. Phillips commented these are federal monies, but the grant will be administered through the State.

City Manager Mitchell added the next step would be RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for grant administration and CDBG-I will have to have a RFQ for engineering so the timeline will not start until those have taken place. He stressed there are federal steps that have to be followed on both RFQ processes.

Councilmember Scoble asked if they can expect to see construction begin on these projects in 2020? City Manager Mitchell said he wasn't sure if they would see construction begin, but they would hope to endeavor to do so. He said their goal is to move as quickly as possible, but that both of these grants are complicated and have specific federal requirements that have to be met.

Councilman Hairston made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to accept the CDBG-I and CDBG-NR grants, authorizing the Mayor to execute the grant documents and approving the Budget Ordinance Amendment.

CDBG-NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

(A COPY OF THE CDBG-NR GRANT DOCUMENTS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

CDBG-INFRASTRUCTURE WITH BOA #11

(A COPY OF THE CDBG-I GRANT DOCUMENTS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 11 as approved follows:

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 11

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville adopted a budget ordinance on June 19, 2019 which established revenues and authorized expenditures for fiscal year 2019-2020; 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 appropriate funds to restore the Community Development Block Grant – Infrastructure project budget to the application amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville that the budget ordinance as adopted on June 19, 2019 is hereby amended as follows;

Section 1. That revenue account number 10-3991-0000, Appropriated General Fund Balance, be increased by \$57,172.00.

Section 2. That expense account number 10-4930-5804, Transfer to Capital Projects, be increased by \$57,172.00.

This the 14th day of April, 2020.

/s/ _____
John M. “Jay” Donecker
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC
City Clerk

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS TO APPLY FOR CDBG-I ASADRA (ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF ACT, 2019) FOR THE CITY’S WASTEWATER AND WATER TREATMENT PLANTS.

In making the presentation, Assistant City Manager Chris Phillips reviewed his memo on ASADRA funding for the City’s Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants and noted Public Works Director Chuck Smith was on the line to answer any questions as well. The memo follows:

MEMORANDUM – ASADRA FUNDING

To: Preston Mitchell, City Manager
From: Chris Phillips, Asst. City Manager/Finance Director
Date: April 6, 2020

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is administering funds from the federal Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (ASADRA) through spring 2020 applications. NC localities affected by Hurricanes Florence and/or Michael are eligible; therefore, Reidsville is eligible because Rockingham County was included in the disaster area for Hurricane Michael.

One of the measures for the applications is Resiliency, and there are extra provisions related to moving infrastructure out of floodplains. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Headworks project, discussed with the City Council at their January 2020 retreat, is a viable candidate for this funding. The initial project was to replace the headworks in the current location, which is in a floodplain. The project has been reviewed in light of this new source of funding and it appears the headworks can be relocated up the hill at the WWTP, out of the floodplain, which would be a preferred location. This additional work will increase the expected cost of the project by \$1 million, bringing the total expected project cost to \$4 million. By moving the project out of the floodplain, the potential funding will be a principal forgiveness of \$3 million with a low interest loan for the remaining portion (if not funded by utility reserves).

In addition, the City can also apply for ASADRA funding for Water projects as well. The City has examined the ability to loop water lines in the past to improve water quality and to eliminate the need to flush water. An application for funding for water line looping is being prepared. This application will probably be eligible for 25% principal forgiveness.

Attached are two resolutions to apply, one for the Sewer-related project and one for the Water-related project. If the City Council approves these resolutions, City staff will work with Doug Chapman at McGill Engineers to get the applications submitted by the April 30, 2020 deadline. (End of Memo)

Phillips said he is coming before Council for approval of the Resolutions giving permission to apply for these grants. He noted the request has to be submitted by the end of April. City Manager Mitchell confirmed that the grant would cover \$3,000,000 of the needed \$4,000,000 cost of the project, adding that Council has already appropriated \$500,000 towards the needed \$1,000,000 related to the City's part of this project.

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to approve the Resolution by Governing Body of Applicant for the WWTP.

The Resolution as approved follows:

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

- WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina the Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of wastewater treatment works, and
- WHEREAS, The City of Reidsville has need for and intends to construct a wastewater treatment works project described as construction of a new headworks facility, including mechanical bar screens and a grit removal system, at its wastewater treatment plant, and
- WHEREAS, The City of Reidsville intends to request state loan and/or grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REIDSVILLE:

That City of Reidsville, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Reidsville to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Reidsville any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That Preston Mitchell – City Manager, the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a loan and/or grant to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 14th day of April 2020, at Reidsville, North Carolina.

/s/ _____
(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

(Title)

Councilwoman Walker then made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to approve the Resolution by Governing Body of Applicant for the WTP.

The Resolution as approved follows:

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

- WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina the Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of drinking water distribution systems, and
- WHEREAS, The City of Reidsville has need for and intends to construct a drinking water distribution system project described as construction of water line loops to create redundancy and resiliency for critical water distribution lines, and
- WHEREAS, The City of Reidsville intends to request state loan and/or grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REIDSVILLE:

That City of Reidsville, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Reidsville to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Reidsville any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That Preston Mitchell – City Manager, the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a (loan or grant) to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 14th day of April 2020, at Reidsville, North Carolina.

/s/

(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

(Title)

CONSIDERATION OF RATIFYING DESIGNATION OF ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES AND THE EXEMPTION OF FIRST RESPONDERS FROM RECEIVING EXTENDED FMLA FOR CHILDCARE.

In making the staff presentation, Assistant City Manager Chris Phillips noted that Human Resource Director Leigh Anne Bassinger was also available for questions. He reviewed his April 6, 2020 memo, which follows:

MEMORANDUM – ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES

To: Preston Mitchell, City Manager

**From: Chris Phillips, Asst. City Manager/Finance Director
Leigh Anne Bassinger, Human Resources Director**

Date: April 6, 2020

In response to legislation related to COVID-19, the City of Reidsville (City) has had to consider which employees are to be considered essential. Government services have been specifically listed as essential businesses by Federal and State legislation and orders. As such, the City staff has made the decision that all full-time City employees are essential. While some employees provide services that are vital to the safety and welfare of citizens, others act in supporting roles; furthermore, some positions may become less essential as work volume decrease or if facilities have reduced access. When possible, employees will be reassigned to areas of greater need or assigned specific tasks that are better performed in times of less public traffic. In all cases, every employee has been instructed to observe social distancing practices when possible, including limiting routine interactions with other employees.

The Extended Family Medical Leave Act portion of the Families First Act allows employees access to leave time to care for children that are home due to closures of schools and/or daycare facilities. The act allows an exemption to applying this leave to first responders. First responders for the City are police officers, fire fighters and public works employees. City staff has made the decision to exempt those employees from the extended FMLA for childcare. There are at least two local facilities that have advertised accepting first responder children for childcare needs. One of the facilities is also offering a

subsidy to help cover some of the fee for the service. There has not yet been a requested need for these services from our first responders.

At this time, City staff would ask that the City Council ratify both Human Resource related decisions discussed above: that all City employees are considered essential and that first responders (police, fire and public works) are exempt from receiving extended FMLA for childcare. (End of Memo)

Phillips stressed at this time they had not had the need for this childcare provision but that as time goes by, they may. He said he is asking that Council as the governing body ratify these decisions.

Mayor Donecker said he would like to confirm with the Human Resources Director Leigh Anne Bassinger the impact upon City employees, including first responders. He mentioned it was his understanding that so far, City employees have not been affected by childcare decision.

Bassinger responded that under this change, first responders are considered exempt and would not be eligible for the extended additional federal FMLA benefit pertaining to childcare. She stressed if they have leave time, they are allowed to take it. Phillips clarified that first responders are eligible for the 80 hours/two weeks benefit, which covers if they have COVID-19 or if they have to care for a family member who has COVID-19. He stressed how important first responders are and that if the City allowed first responders to take leave that applies to the extended FMLA pertaining to childcare, they possibly would not have any first responders left to work. He said the City is fortunate to have the workforce of first responders and how important they are, especially when people are in need. Phillips added how critical it would be if those employees came down with COVID-19, and the City did not have the ability to respond to emergencies.

City Manager Mitchell said it is an operational matter. With the City being a small organization, they are choosing to take a similar approach like Rockingham County in regard to the federal option offered. He stressed if mass numbers of first responders took time off for childcare it could possibly leave the City without a Fire Department, a Police Department and water and sewer services, which is not feasible for our community.

Mayor Donecker added that he understands but that the City's first responders are making a sacrifice for the citizens of Reidsville and when this pandemic has passed, that sacrifice needs to be addressed.

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston, to approve the recommended changes.

During the discussion phase, Councilman Festerman spoke up and voiced his concern, saying he had "heartburn about this all week" and tried to talk to Phillips about the matter. He said he thought it was unfair and that he was glad the Mayor spoke up and addressed the matter. Mayor Donecker said he realizes we are in the middle of a

pandemic now but he does not want this sacrifice to be forgotten and wants the minutes of this meeting to reflect that later, these first responders will be recognized and thanked.

The motion then passed in a 7-0 vote.

CONSIDERATION OF MINIMUM HOUSING CODE VIOLATIONS:

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Donna Setliff discussed the four following demolitions requested by staff:

213 HALL STREET

Community Development Manager Setliff stated that as of January 21, 2020, the 90-day Code Enforcement Order to demolish the structure at 213 Hall Street had expired. She said the property has not been completely demolished but is considered condemned. Setliff detailed further information from her April 1, 2020 memo regarding the property. (A COPY OF SETLIFF'S MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Setliff reported that notices had been sent out to the property owners, both the Lynns and the Cranstons, published in the *Rockingham Now* newspaper and posted on the property. She said the taxes have been paid and the water service has been disconnected since January 2010. She mentioned there are pictures in the agenda packets, and staff is asking for consideration of the Ordinance to demolish the dwelling. She added the property owners were mailed a notice regarding tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Scoble asked if the property owners knew the property was condemned. Setliff clarified that the original owners David L. Lynn and others sold the property to Scott and Annette Cranston between the time the notice went out and the Minimum Housing Code Hearing. She stated Annette Cranston was at the hearing.

Mayor Donecker made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote, to demolish 213 Hall Street.

The Ordinance to demolish follows:

**ORDINANCE
TO DEMOLISH 213 HALL STREET, REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, on the 20th day of August, 2019 at 10:00 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 213 Hall Street, Reidsville, North Carolina Tax Map No. 8905-19-50-5751. The Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served via Certified Mail on David L. Lynn, Melinda F. Lynn, David L. Carter, Gloria J. Carter, Rodney A. Lynn and Kimberly K. Lynn on August 1, 2019. Further, the

Complaint and Notice of Hearing was published in the Rockingham Now newspaper on July 31, 2019, and by posting the Complaint and Notice of Hearing on the subject property on July 31, 2019.

WHEREAS, Rodney A. Lynn and Annette Cranston appeared at said hearing, presented no evidence, and whereas a copy of the Code Enforcement Order was mailed to David L. Lynn, Melinda F. Lynn, David L. Carter, Gloria J. Carter, Rodney A. Lynn, Kimberly K. Lynn, Annette Cranston and Scott Cranston via Certified Mail on October 15, 2019, being received by said persons on October 17, 2019 and October 18, 2019. The Order allowed said owners to demolish and remove the above structure on or before January 21, 2020 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 213 Hall 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 14th day of April, 2020.

/s/

John "Jay" M. Donecker, Mayor, Reidsville, North Carolina

ATTESTED BY:

/s/

Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

217 HALL STREET

Community Development Manager Setliff said this 90-day Code Enforcement Order had expired as of January 21, 2020 for the demolition at 217 Hall Street. She said since the property has not been completely demolished, it is considered condemned. She stated she is requesting permission to demolish the remnants of the dwelling. Setliff listed further details in her April 1, 2020 memo. (A COPY OF SETLIFF'S MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Setliff reported her department had received complaints regarding the property and the condition of the house. She said upon inspection, they found numerous violations prompting the need for a Minimum Housing Code Hearing. Setliff reported that notices had been sent out to the property owners, both the Lynns and the Cranstons, published in *Rockingham Now* and posted on the property, with Rodney Lynn and Annette Cranston attended the hearing.

Setliff mentioned the Cranstons reside at 215 Hall Street, and it appears they have purchased the properties on either side of their residence. She said the taxes have been paid and the water service has been disconnected since June 2012. She added there are pictures included in the agenda packets and staff is asking for consideration of the Ordinance to demolish the dwelling. She added the property owners were mailed a notice regarding tonight's meeting.

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote, to demolish 217 Hall Street.

The Ordinance to demolish follows:

**ORDINANCE
TO DEMOLISH 217 HALL STREET, REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, on the 20th day of August, 2019 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 217 Hall Street, Reidsville, North Carolina Tax Map No. 8905-19-50-6756. The Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served via Certified Mail on David L. Lynn, Melinda F. Lynn, David L. Carter, Gloria J. Carter, Rodney A. Lynn and Kimberly K. Lynn on August 1, 2019. Further, the Complaint and Notice of Hearing was published in the Rockingham Now newspaper on July 31, 2019, and by posting the Complaint and Notice of Hearing on the subject property on July 31, 2019.

WHEREAS, Rodney A. Lynn and Annette Cranston appeared at said hearing, presented no evidence, and whereas a copy of the Code Enforcement Order was mailed to David L. Lynn, Melinda F. Lynn, David L. Carter, Gloria J. Carter, Rodney A. Lynn, Kimberly K. Lynn, Annette Cranston and Scott Cranston via Certified Mail on October 15, 2019, being received by said persons on October 17, 2019. The Order allowed said owners to demolish and remove the above structure on or before January 21, 2020 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 217 Hall 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 14th day of April, 2020.

/s/

John "Jay" M. Donecker, Mayor, Reidsville, North Carolina

ATTESTED BY:

/s/

Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

709 THOMAS STREET

Community Development Manager Setliff said the 90-day Code Enforcement Order had expired for the property at 709 Thomas Street as of January 13, 2020. She said her department had received complaints about the condition of the house and someone was living there, but that water service had been disconnected. Setliff provided further details in her April 1, 2020 memo. (A COPY OF SETLIFF'S MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Setliff reviewed the required procedures that had taken place regarding posting the property and notifying the public as well as the property owner of the Minimum Housing Code Hearing. She stated the taxes had been paid and the water had been disconnected in March of 2017. Setliff added there are pictures in the agenda packets and she is requesting permission to demolish the structure.

Councilman Hairston made the motion, seconded by Mayor Donecker and unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote, to demolish 709 Thomas Street.

The Ordinance to demolish follows:

**ORDINANCE TO DEMOLISH
709 THOMAS STREET, REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, on the 27th day of August, 2019, at 9:00 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 located at 709 Thomas Street, Reidsville, North Carolina Tax Map No. 8904-08-87-1974. Said Complaint and Notice of Hearing was mailed via Certified Mail to the owner being Kenneth W. Roberts, Jr. on August 7, 2019. The Certified Mail was returned unclaimed. Further, the Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served on the property owner by publication in the Rockingham Now newspaper on August 7, 2019, and by posting the Complaint and Notice of Hearing on the subject property on August 7, 2019.

WHEREAS, said owner failed to appear at said hearing and presented no evidence, and whereas a copy of the Order of the Codes Inspector was mailed to the owner via Certified Mail on October 9, 2019 and accepted on October 18, 2019. Furthermore, the Order of the Codes Inspector was posted on said property on October 10, 2019 and published in the Rockingham Now newspaper on October 13, 2019. The Order allowed said owner to demolish and remove the above structure on or before January 14, 2020 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 Codes Inspector of Reidsville, North Carolina is hereby ordered to cause the above structure located at 709 Thomas Street, Reidsville, North Carolina, to be demolished and removed, pending demolition and removal to be 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 14th day of April, 2020.

/s/

John "Jay" M. Donecker, Mayor, Reidsville, North Carolina

ATTESTED BY:

/s/

Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

412 FERNWOOD AVENUE

Community Development Manager Setliff said the 90-day Code Enforcement Order had expired for the property at 412 Fernwood Avenue as of January 21, 2020. She reported the house had burned some time back, which resulted in a Minimum Housing Code Inspection. She reported that a title search was performed and revealed the property owner as Angela R. Ware and Coastal Federal Credit Union as a lienholder.

Setliff detailed information regarding the Minimum Housing Code Hearing as contained in her April 1, 2020 memo. (A COPY OF SETLIFF'S MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) She stated the Housing Code Enforcement Order to demolish had been mailed to both the property owner and the lienholder. Setliff said the property taxes for the years 2010-2019 are owed totaling \$10,972.45 and that the water was disconnected in April of 2014.

Setliff mentioned pictures of the property are included in Council members' packets and that staff is requesting permission to demolish the structure.

Mayor Donecker asked if any of the Councilmembers had any questions regarding this action. Councilman Festerman asked if there were any chances of collecting the taxes that are owed on the property. City Manager Mitchell responded that staff, along with our partners at the Rockingham County Tax Department, will try to find ways to collect such taxes if the property comes up for sale or goes into foreclosure.

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote, to demolish 412 Fernwood Avenue.

Mayor Donecker noted that there was an error in the Ordinance where at one point it listed the address as 316 Lindsey Street. Setliff said she would get that corrected.

The corrected Ordinance to demolish follows:

**ORDINANCE TO DEMOLISH
412 FERNWOOD AV., REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, on the 20th day of September, 2019, at 9:30 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 located at 412 Fernwood Avenue, Reidsville, North Carolina Tax Map No. 8905-10-25-8137. Said Complaint and Notice of Hearing was mailed via Certified Mail to the owner being Angela R. Ware on August 23, 2019. The Certified Mail was returned unclaimed. Further, the Complaint and Notice of Hearing was served on the property owner by publication in the Rockingham Now newspaper on August 25, 2019, and by posting the Complaint and Notice of Hearing on the subject property on August 23, 2019.

WHEREAS, said owner failed to appear at said hearing and presented no evidence, and whereas a copy of the Order of the Codes Inspector was mailed to the owner via Certified Mail on October 15, 2019, returned unclaimed. Furthermore, the Order of the Codes Inspector was posted on said property on October 15, 2019 and published in the Rockingham Now newspaper on October 21, 2019. The Order allowed said owner to demolish and remove the above structure on or before January 21, 2020 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 Codes Inspector of Reidsville, North Carolina is hereby ordered to cause the above structure located at 412 Fernwood Avenue, Reidsville, North Carolina, to be demolished and removed, in 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 14th day of April, 2020.

/s/

John "Jay" M. Donecker, Mayor, Reidsville, North Carolina

ATTESTED BY:

/s/

Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Demolitions of 213 and 217 Hall Street.

Mr. Scott Cranston of 215 Hall Street, Reidsville, came forward in regard to the demolition of 213 and 217 Hall Street. He said he had not seen the pictures provided to members of Council but has current pictures on his phone. He stated the structure at 217 Hall Street is gone and that he has some cleaning up to do and some fill dirt to add at that location. Mr. Cranston said he would like request the opportunity to convert the remaining structure at 213 Hall Street into a storage shed for his lawnmower and other items. He asked if Council would allow him to refurbish the dwelling into storage instead of taking it completely down. He reiterated that he would not need water or electric service. Mayor Donecker referred Mr. Cranston to Community Development Manager Donna Setliff with any questions he may have. The Mayor stressed there are different factors involved in the building code for a residence and for a storage shed. City Manager Mitchell interjected there are several items Mr. Cranston would need to discuss with Setliff related to his request, such as setbacks, additional fees and other requirements.

Mayor Donecker said he was happy the Cranstons had purchased the adjoining properties and knows they will do their best to enhance the look of the neighborhood. Annette Cranston asked how they would go about joining all four properties. She said they also own 211 Hall Street. Mayor Donecker referred the Cranstons to Community Development Manager Setliff for any questions they might have.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.

City Manager Preston Mitchell reviewed his monthly Manager's Report, which included the following three items: 1) materials related to the 2020 Census campaign, including mentioning that two tracts within Reidsville are near or over 60% and that these are the areas where the City has been expecting new population growth and stressing that Council members encourage others to fill out their Census forms; 2) preparations for the FY 20-21 budget are ongoing and Council members are asked to bring their calendars to the May meeting to schedule a budget work session; and 3) the Downtown FAB Festival (Food-Arts-Brew) planned in May has been delayed until October as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. (A COPY OF THE MEMO IS HEREBY INCLUDED IN THESE

MINUTES) City Manager Mitchell said he would like to recognize our community, our Council members, and City staff for the great job they have been doing through this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown – No Report.

Councilman Festerman – No Report.

Councilmember Scoble – Councilmember Scoble provided a report, both verbal and written, noting she had attended a meeting in Washington D.C. with Senator Burr, Congressman Walker and Senator Tillis and their staff on March 11; had quarantined herself for two weeks upon her return because other attendees had been diagnosed with the virus; had attended Bloomberg's Initiative video conference call regarding COVID-19 on March 19; observed progress from outside at 316 Lindsey Street on March 29; requested an application for a Resolution to the NCLM in honor of former Councilwoman Joan Zdanski for her dedicated civil service to the City of Reidsville on March 31; attended a NC WIMC conference call on April 1; wrote a letter to each of the 32 Rockingham County elected officials emphasizing the importance of their joining with Reidsville to enact a Stay at Home Order on April 1; requested that a banner be made and hung outside her business stating "We will get thru this together! We are Team Reidsville" on April 7; attended Bloomberg's conference call update on the Coronavirus on April 9; viewed all four houses listed on the demolition request on April 13; and observed the progress at 316 Lindsey Street from outside on April 14, 2020.

Councilman Gorham – Councilman Gorham said he had attended the NAACP monthly meeting and a meeting with North Carolina Representative Mark Walker regarding COVID-19 on March 17, both via telephone conference call; on March 19, a Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative video conference call; a conference call on March 24 with the Governor and his staff regarding COVID-19; and special meetings of the Reidsville City Council on March 25 and April 3, 2020.

Councilman Hairston – Councilman Hairston said he would like to give a "Shout Out" in support of the men and women from Wal-Mart, Lowe's Home Improvement, Food Lion, Walgreens and other local businesses who are essential and that they are doing a great job, especially in their efforts to keep citizens safe through sanitizing measures.

Councilwoman Walker – Councilwoman Walker said most of her meetings this month had been cancelled, but she had helped with Meals on Wheels on March 16 accompanied by two ladies, both named Faith. She reiterated you can never have "Too much Faith". She expressed her sadness at what young people are currently going through related to graduations and other milestone events. She invited them and those in attendance to call their loved ones and check in on them.

Councilman Gorham – The Councilman asked the Mayor if he could add one thing to his report. He said he would like to express his gratitude to City Manager Mitchell for

having faith enough in him to include him in the hard work that went into the recent CDBG infrastructure grant. City Manager added that they couldn't have done it without Mr. Gorham's help.

Mayor Donecker – Mayor Jay Donecker said he has attended the weekly Hopkins/Harvard/Bloomberg strategy meetings in regard to COVID-19. He said the Governor's order superseded the City's Stay at Home Order and was now allowing 50 people to attend funerals. The Mayor reported the staggering numbers of how the virus had spread in Albany, Georgia after two such funerals where 50 people had attended. He advised the citizens in Reidsville to keep those numbers at 10 or under. The Mayor reiterated the need for people to be aware when frequenting "big box" stores, which now are allowed to hold a lot more people, and not to take unnecessary risks. He asked Chamber President Diane Sawyer if she had anything to add.

Chamber Report.

Chamber President Diane Sawyer reported the Chamber has developed a separate website to share additional resources for area businesses affected by COVID-19. Sawyer said their social media has seen a 500% increase. She said she would like to share some good news and announced that she and Main Street Manager Missy Matthews have been working with local restaurants to promote their business with a "Takeout Bingo" card. She explained how they would work and mentioned a *Team Reidsville* gift card promotion as well. Sawyer said they were holding the Team Reidsville Chamber Huddle on Fridays and reaching out and working with other Chambers of Commerce during this time of crisis for business owners. She announced that Randy Moore, who owns Screening Print Plus, has "We will get through this together! We are Team Reidsville" banners available for \$45, with all of the proceeds going to the Salvation Army. Sawyer said going forward until things get better the Chamber will be hosting things like the Chamber Coffee virtually.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS A LEGAL MATTER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(A)(3)(4)&(5).

Councilwoman Walker made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to go into closed session.

The Mayor called for a 10-minute break with the closed session starting at 8 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to adjourn at approximately 8:07 p.m.

John M. "Jay" Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk