

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor John M. “Jay” Donecker  
Mayor Pro Tem Harry L. Brown  
Councilman James K. Festerman  
Councilman Donald L. Gorham  
Councilman William Hairston  
Councilmember Terresia Scoble (*via conference call*)  
Councilwoman Sherri G. Walker

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Preston W. Mitchell, City Manager  
Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk  
William F. McLeod, City Attorney  
Chris Phillips, Assistant City Manager of Administration  
David Bracken, Fire Chief  
Robert Hassell, Police Chief  
Jeff Garstka, Economic Development Director  
Donna Setliff, Community Development Manager

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION.**

Reverend Ryan Burris, Pastor of Baptist Temple, 729 Wentworth Street, Reidsville, provided the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Council then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATIONS & RECOGNITIONS:**

**RECOGNITION OF BETA FUELING SYSTEM, WINNER OF THE 2019 GOVERNOR’S EXPORT AWARD FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

Mr. David Cure, International Sales Manager with Beta Fueling Systems came forward, along with Reidsville Economic Development Director Jeff Garstka, as the City recognized Beta Fueling for being recognized as recipient of the Governor’s 2019 Top New Exporter Award. Mayor Donecker asked for clarification regarding what Beta

Systems does. Mr. Cure said they manufacture fueling equipment for commercial and military airplanes in North American and internationally. He said with the help of Reidsville and the State of North Carolina, they were able to achieve this award.

**RECOGNITION OF BROWN BUILDINGS AS THE 2019 DEALER OF THE YEAR BY LIBERTY STORAGE SOLUTIONS.**

Mayor Donecker asked Mr. John Brown to come forward at which time they discussed the criteria for the 2019 Dealer of the Year award from Liberty Storage Solutions. Mr. Brown detailed the success he is experiencing with the expansion of his business. The Mayor expressed his enthusiasm at that success and said Reidsville is a great place to do business and to raise a family.

**RECOGNITION OF PENN HOUSE WINNING THE COUPLES CHOICE AWARD FROM WEDDING WIRE FOR 2020.**

Mayor Donecker asked City Marketer Judy Yarbrough to come forward and be recognized as the Penn House had recently won the Couples Choice Award from Wedding Wire. Yarbrough stated the award is based on customer satisfaction and reviews. She added that the City ranked at 4.8 out of a possible 5.0.

**RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS FROM THE FACE THE WORLD PROGRAM.**

Mayor Donecker asked Jennifer Bailey with the Face the World Foreign Exchange Student Program to come forward and explain the program. Ms. Bailey came forward, detailing the success the program is having here in Rockingham County, in North Carolina and all over the country. She stated there are more foreign exchange students here in North Carolina and Rockingham County than anywhere else in the country. Currently there are 26 students at the various high schools in the county. She acknowledged Eric Smith as one of the host families and said the program would not work without them. Mr. Smith said he and his wife are actually hosting two students, one from Thailand and one from Germany, and it is like his 13-year-old son has two new brothers. He encouraged those in attendance to consider hosting a student also. Mayor Donecker said it is nice to hear how well this program is doing and about its benefits here in Reidsville and in Rockingham County. The Mayor then had the students come forward and introduce themselves and tell where they were from.

**RECOGNITION OF REIDSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, RECIPIENT OF THE SHARP (SAFETY & HEALTH ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM) AWARD FROM THE NC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.**

Mayor Donecker asked members of the Reidsville Fire Department to come forward as recipients of the Safety & Health Achievement Program Award (SHARP) from the NC Department of Labor. Chief David Bracken came forward, along with Battalion Chief Tommy Massey, Fire Captain Jeff Walker and Fire Engineer Mark Boler. Chief Bracken explained the requirements for the award. He said the State inspection includes numerous items, with injury and illness logs being critical. He added that all three stations qualified for this award.

**RECOGNITION OF WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.**

Added to today's agenda, the Mayor read aloud a proclamation recognizing Women in Public Office Day, which he presented to Councilwoman Walker and Councilmember Scoble. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FORMER COUNCILWOMAN ZDANSKI.**

Mayor Donecker called for a moment of silence for Councilwoman Joan Zdanski, who had passed away a few days before. Zdanski had served 20 years on the Reidsville City Council. Councilwoman Walker noted that Joan had been the fifth woman on the City Council and following her, Walker had been the sixth. Councilmember Scoble noted that Joan loved Reidsville.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.**

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in 7-0 vote, the Council approved the February 11, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF A BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 10 TO RECOGNIZE WIRELESS FEES RECEIVED AND TO APPROPRIATE RELATED FUNDS FOR SPRINT WIRELESS SERVICES.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 10 as outlined in Community Development Manager Donna Setliff's memo dated February 28, 2020. (A COPY OF SETLIFF'S MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 10 as approved follows:

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 10**

**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 budget to recognize wireless fees received and to appropriate related funds for wireless services;

**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 10-3346-0000, Wireless Fees, be increased by \$850.00.

**Section 2.** That expense account number 10-4910-4300, Wireless Reviews, be increased by \$850.00.

This the 10th day of March, 2020.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

John M. "Jay" Donecker  
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC  
City Clerk

**- End of Consent Agenda -**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 129 EAST MOREHEAD STREET TO THE CARPINO INVESTMENTS 2, LLC FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI-STORY FORMER WAREHOUSE, A GROUND FLOOR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICES IN AN EXISTING METAL BUILDING.**

Economic Development Director Jeff Garstka came forward detailing information related to his February 28, 2020 memo. (A COPY OF GARSTKA'S MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Yet first he talked about Mr. Michael Carpino's current efforts to revitalize the Nunnally building on Gilmer Street into both residential and commercial space. Garstka said he is requesting Council approval for the conveyance of property located at 129 East Morehead Street (the former Adams Electric building) to The Carpino Investments 2, LLC, with the purpose of a mixed-use redevelopment consisting of 14 residential units and commercial space. This property with a current appraised value of \$152,900 was donated to the City about 1½ years ago, Garstka noted. He mentioned there is a metal office building on the property, which Mr. Carpino plans to use as his property management and leasing office. Garstka discussed The Depot District's mixed use development and the timeline to secure the Special Use zoning and construction. He noted the availability of building rehabilitation grants through the City/Reidsville Downtown Corporation. The City has agreed to do landscaping and streetscape in the Depot District area as well, Garstka said.

Garstka said he, along with some members of Council, had visited a project Mr. Carpino is working on in Eden and were impressed with the workmanship and quality of the appliances in the studio apartments. City Manager Mitchell added that he and Garstka are searching for ways to encourage developers to successfully take on similar projects. Garstka asked if there were any questions of Council.

Councilman Festerman said he and Councilwoman Walker had the opportunity to visit Mr. Carpino's Eden project. He said it consists of apartments and commercial space and that a similar project here could be a "game changer". He asked for clarification regarding #13 of the incentive agreement. (A COPY OF THE ECONOMIC INCENTIVE AGREEMENT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Garstka said it is a "clawback" agreement, meaning that if for some unforeseen reason, the benchmarks and timeframes of the agreement are not achieved, the property would revert back to the City. Councilman Festerman asked if that would involve legal action? City Attorney Bill McLeod stated the process would involve a reversion clause, but he does not foresee that happening.

Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Mr. Eric Smith of 144 Benton Road, Reidsville, came forward in favor of the project. He remarked the project is similar to the one Council approved for Lucky City Brewing a few years ago and that Mr. Carpino's proposed project will be good for other businesses in town. He said he, too, had visited the site in Eden and was likewise impressed with the quality of the project. He added that as a downtown business owner, he encourages Council to move forward with the project.

Mayor Donecker closed the public hearing at 6:34 p.m.

**Councilman Festerman made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote to approve the conveyance of property located at 129 E. Morehead Street to The Carpino Investments 2, LLC.**

Mayor Donecker thanked Mr. Carpino for making an investment in Reidsville.

**- End of Public Hearings -**

**PRESENTATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES LAW ENFORCEMENT RISK REVIEW.**

Mr. Matthew Selves, Public Safety Risk Management Consultant for the North Carolina League of Municipalities, came forward and thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to recognize Chief Robert Hassell and the Reidsville Police Department for completing the North Carolina League of Municipalities "Law Enforcement Risk Management Review".

Mr. Selves said the Risk Review involves a comprehensive agency review of the High-Risk policies, operations, and practices and includes a detailed on-site agency review, including: equipment and facility inspections, officer interviews, and observations of operations, all to validate that practices align with policy and, in turn, with industry best practices. He said they specifically look at those high liability areas within a department that consist of police pursuits, use of force, care of suspects/offenders, employment practices and training in addition to many more, which includes about 39 categories.

Mr. Selves stated the review is supported by the North Carolina Police Chiefs Association and that he is proud to report that the Reidsville Police Department successfully completed the Law Enforcement Risk Review process. He said Chief Hassell and the Police Department Staff prioritized this initiative and made the process a department priority. He stressed that Chief Hassell is very proactive and involved and that he worked directly with Captain Hinnant during the process. He commended Captain Hinnant on his evident dedication to the department and professionalism.

Mr. Selves added he would like to personally thank Chief Hassell and all the staff for their leadership and willingness to participate in this very important initiative, commending them for being very open and transparent during the process. He said he had spent 23 years in law enforcement, 12 years as a Police Chief in Troutman, N.C. in Iredell County and had additionally worked with numerous agencies across the State. He stated he had observed while working with the officers here in Reidsville that they demonstrate a high level of commitment and use best practices to enhance professional policing and to positively impact this community and their relationships.

Mr. Selves presented Chief Hassell and Captain Hinnant with a plaque and asked if members of the City Council would consider posing for a picture with the three of them, which they did.

Chief Hassell said he has faith in his department and as soon as he heard about this program the League of Municipalities was offering, he knew he wanted to be a part of it.

Mr. Selves reiterated that the program is offered every three years unless there is turnover, for example, if Chief Hassell left the Department, but that he hoped to see them again in three years.

Chief Hassell commended his department for all their hard work.

**PRESENTATION ON ROCKINGHAM COUNTY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER STATUS UPDATE AND USE OF INMATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (ICP) SURVEY & LOGISTICAL LAYOUT.**

Mr. William Lassiter, Deputy Secretary, Juvenile Justice and Mark Johnson, Assistant Director of Construction, Inmate Construction Program (ICP), came forward, thanking the City Council for this opportunity to discuss this project. Mr. Lassiter stated they had come before Council about a year ago to consider the building of a Youth Development Center off of Elliott Road. He said they are coming before Council tonight to update them on what has happened since that meeting. He said they had been trying to find a construction company to build the center and have run into some problems. He reported that through numerous attempts, the construction market has simply not been willing to undertake this project at a reasonable cost. Mr. Lassiter said they had received bids that were \$11 million dollars over budget. He said he had been to the General Assembly and requested additional funds for the project three times and did not really want to go a fourth time.

Mr. Lassiter said they are looking for other options and have considered using the State Inmate Construction Program. He detailed how the State Inmate Construction Program works and also reviewed how the Youth Development Center facility would look and be operated.

Mr. Mark Johnson, the Assistant Director of Engineering Construction of the Inmate Construction Program, then shared information regarding the program and the benefits of its use. He reviewed other projects throughout the state using the program and stressed the quality of the workmanship and certifications of the inmates. He discussed inmate qualifications, which are required to take part in the program and that it is strictly on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Johnson said their goal is that the project will be completed in 24 months and that safety, quality of workmanship and rehabilitation are the three major factors they are concerned about. He asked if members of Council had any questions.

Councilman Festerman stated he is very glad the NC Department of Public Safety has chosen to be so transparent by coming forward and detailing its intention of using inmates and addressing and easing the possible concerns of neighboring property owners. He said he had viewed the construction of this facility from the very beginning as an economic development project. He asked if meals and also building materials would be provided by local merchants? Mr. Johnson stated that all meals for the inmates will be transported on the bus daily and provided by the correctional facility. He said their 20 employees will be using area restaurants and hotels while working on the project. He added that usually most building materials, such as block and concrete, are purchased on a state procurement contract, which has to go through the bid process. He did say they would be establishing accounts and relationships with local vendors to purchase some of the construction supplies they will need on a daily basis.

Councilman Festerman asked if using inmate labor would extend the contract longer as opposed to the traditional method. Mr. Lassiter assured members of Council that it may take a little longer but that using the inmates will be better in the long run because he reiterated that the lowest bid they received for the project was \$11 million dollars over budget. If he has to go back to the General Assembly and ask for an additional \$11 million dollars, it will prolong the project. He reminded them that last year, the State budget did not pass and added that he thinks it will save them time and money to proceed by using the Inmate Construction Program.

Councilmember Scoble remarked that she had done a lot of investigation regarding the North Carolina Inmate Construction Program, and it is highly successful in numerous ways, including for the project, the inmates and the Cities involved. She said this is especially true with regards to the education, hands-on experience and skills the inmates receive through the program. She said she strongly supports the program.

Councilwoman Walker said she felt like she had waited a third of her life on contractors and that there is a need for similar programs like the Inmate Construction Program. She

asked if Mr. Lassiter and Mr. Johnson keep track of the men after they complete the program and if there are statistics of their success. Mr. Johnson responded that if the inmates reach out to them after they are released they do, especially if they need a reference or a recommendation.

Mr. Lassiter stressed statistics show that the success of these men, after they are released, is determined by if they have gainful employment. He said this program gives them valuable skills that enable them to have a job and the ability to provide for the needs of their families, including a home. Mr. Lassiter continued that he is the customer of this program and has used the Inmate Construction Program on several projects, including renovations to the Edgecombe County Youth Facility. He said once these projects are complete and area contractors walk through and see the workmanship, they want the contact information of these men with the intent of offering them a job.

City Manager Mitchell informed members of Council that Mr. Lassiter and Mr. Johnson have offered to provide this same presentation to the County Commissioners.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE DISTRICT COMMERCIAL MAINTENANCE CODE.**

Ms. Donna Setliff, Community Development Manager, came forward and stated, in response to maintenance concerns regarding buildings in the City of Reidsville's downtown, that staff has developed a Municipal Service District Maintenance Code. She stated the Code is similarly tailored after one used by Salisbury, North Carolina and was presented at the City Council Retreat in January, at which time staff was encouraged to move forward. Setliff stressed that the purpose of the Code is not intended to condemn downtown buildings in the Municipal Service District but to require property owners to properly maintain their buildings. She continued the Code would allow inspections on any building, structure or unit within the building that appears to be in violation of this code and requires inspections on all unoccupied buildings twice a year.

Setliff said they would notify the property owner of the inspection, set up a time and meet them at the property. She stated if the building is found to be in violation, they would set up a hearing similar to the process of a non-residential violation. Setliff said they would meet with the building owner and detail what needs to be done to bring the building up to code with them being given 90 days to complete the repairs. She said if the property owner does not make the needed repairs within the 90 days, they will be subject to criminal or civil citations, with criminal being the desired method due to the likelihood of receiving the payment.

Mayor Donecker said he would like clarification from the City Attorney regarding if any of the Council members need to declare they own property in the downtown business district before they take a vote? City Attorney Bill McLeod said they did not.

Councilwoman Walker said she would like to address two sections of the amendment. She said the City Attorney knows how to determine so much more than she does but she would like clarification on Section 4-90. Purpose, the middle section, which states "to



preserve the character and integrity of the community and to promote the comfort, happiness and safety of the community residents”. She said something about the wording bothers her. She continued with regard to section 4-92. Definitions, including the fifth section, “Rubbish” and the last item mentioned, which is “dust”. Councilwoman Walker said she hopes no one comes to her house because it is full of dust. She added that she understands the need for the code and that everyone wants the betterment of Reidsville’s downtown but she just doesn’t want to get into some “government overreach”. Councilwoman Walker requested to be recused from voting on the matter since she inherited property in the downtown district. Mayor Donecker said members of City Council have to vote on her request to be recused.

**Councilman Festerman made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown and approved by Council in a 5-1 vote (with Mayor Donecker voting in opposition), to allow Councilwoman Sherri Walker to be recused from voting on the Municipal Service District Maintenance Code.**

Mayor Donecker voted in opposition to the recusal, saying the members of Council are elected for the good of the entire community.

Councilman Festerman stated he too shares Councilwoman Walker’s concerns regarding the Municipal Service District Maintenance Code. He mentioned the City at one point had the ability to inspect residences every three years and the State took that capability away because they thought it was an overreach. He stressed he feels this may be an overreach.

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston, to approve the Municipal Service District Maintenance Code Ordinance Amendment.**

Mayor Donecker asked Setliff and Assistant City Manager Haywood Cloud how long Salisbury had this addition to their code? Cloud said he thought it had been about five years. Mayor Donecker stated the General Assembly made the decision to restrict residential inspections, thinking it was a good thing for some of the State’s landlords. He said he has heard numerous concerns from others throughout the State through the Mayors Association that it may be a detrimental issue and a tool our community wishes was still in place regarding rental properties. He added it is so much like other ordinances that it is all about how it is enforced.

Mayor Donecker added he had been in several buildings downtown that had leaking roofs, and he stressed he is concerned with the integrity of these buildings. He reminded Council that most buildings downtown have connecting walls and if they want to leave something of the downtown for future generations, they have got to stop the detrition of these buildings. He stressed it may be absentee landlords or landlords just turning a blind eye, but the matter has to be addressed. The Mayor commended Reidsville City staff for coming up with this idea and referenced Mayor Karen Alexander of Salisbury, who is a licensed architect and has spent her life trying to renovate and bring back to life the buildings in Salisbury and has been very successful.

City Manager Mitchell said this ordinance was addressed at the Council Retreat specifically to eliminate confusion as it relates to the Municipal Service District. He added that the inspections done twice a year are in place to address unoccupied buildings, which there is a great deal of concern about.

Councilmember Scoble said she had spoken to Mayor Alexander who said these changes may have increased property values and attitudes. She added that more businesses are attempting to locate to Salisbury's downtown because of these changes. Councilman Gorham said he has been made aware that Greensboro is looking at a similar approach in their downtown.

**The motion then passed in a 6-0 vote. (Councilwoman Sherri Walker was recused from the vote.) (A COPY OF THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)**

Councilwoman Walker returned to the meeting.

**CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES UPDATING THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND LEGAL BOUNDARIES OF THE DOWNTOWN FIRE DISTRICT.**

Fire Chief David Bracken reported that for years, the City has been using old geographical descriptions, and there have been inconsistencies in those descriptions of our downtown fire district boundaries. He stressed that some of the geographical boundaries are no longer in existence, and staff is trying to eliminate those boundaries. Chief Bracken said they would use street names and descriptions, such as North, South, East and West designations, while following the flow of the fire district. He added they have developed a map that could be used as a reference point, which would be displayed at Fire Station #1. He said he is asking Council to consider amending the City Code of Ordinances with reference to the legal description of the Fire District.

Mayor Donecker asked if members of Council had any questions for Chief Bracken.

Councilwoman Walker stated that she was confused regarding the way the map was drawn, excluding two structures in the lower left-hand corner of the map. She said Chief Bracken had explained that wooden frame structures could not be included in the Fire District boundaries. Chief Bracken said these two structures were not included in the previous Fire District, adding that masonry construction, masonry construction with brick veneer and heavy timber construction are allowed. He said these two buildings are wood frame construction. Mayor Donecker questioned the Reidsville Free Clinic building, which is a brick building. Chief Bracken assured Council that the Free Clinic building is wood construction underneath brick veneer.

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote to amend the City Code of Ordinances updating the Geographical and Legal Boundaries of the Downtown Fire**

**District. (A COPY OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AMENDMENT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

No public comments were made.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Preston Mitchell reviewed his monthly Manager's Report. He talked of the City's efforts to push out information about the upcoming 2020 Census to residents, including sending out a flyer to the schools, etc., and getting the flyer done in Spanish; preparing for the 2020 Team Reidsville Training Camp and hoping to get all 11 spots filled for the citizen's academy, which starts March 24<sup>th</sup>. He also asked Council to look at the list of upcoming events.

City Manager Mitchell stated that Reidsville Police Chief Robert Hassell is a humble man but he would like to announce the recent accomplishment that Chief has received his PhD. Councilman Gorham asked how Chief Hassell would like to be addressed? Chief Hassell came forward saying Chief is still just fine. He thanked them for the acknowledgement and said his doctorate is in Organizational Management with a concentration on the Underrepresentation of Minorities and Women in Law Enforcement in Municipal Policing.

Councilman Festerman reminded Council that Reidsville Fire Chief David Bracken also has a PhD. Mayor Donecker said Reidsville may be one of the only cities in North Carolina to have Chiefs of both Police and Fire Departments that have their PhDs. Councilman Gorham added that Mayor Donecker is a Doctor also. Councilman Festerman chimed in "What am I doing up here?" to a response of laughter from those present.

**BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS:**

Ballots for the Boards and Commissions appointments were distributed.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Brown** – Mayor Pro Tem Brown said he had attended the Annie Penn Hospital Trustee Board of Directors meeting on February 18; had met with executives from Dorada Foods Company, along with the City Manager and the Economic Development Director; and worked the polls at Zion Baptist Church on March 3, 2020.

**Councilman Hairston** – Councilman Hairston said he really enjoyed the Pancake Supper at St. Thomas Church and also the Human Relations Commission meeting on February 25, 2020.

**Councilmember Scoble** – Councilmember Scoble reported via telephone from Washington DC, where she is attending the National League of Cities Conference. She said the last few days she had been in meetings discussing and getting clarification and assistance on EPA issues. She offered assurance that those meetings would continue and

produce certification and assistance in making sure we get the response we need. She said tomorrow she will be meeting with Senator Richard Burr, Senator Thom Tillis and Representative Mark Walker about bills that will directly affect Reidsville and our citizens. She thanked the City Manager and Council for the opportunity to attend the conference. Councilmember Scoble referred to her monthly report, which was provided to the City Clerk. (A COPY OF THAT REPORT IS HEREBY HEREIN INCOPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

**Councilman Gorham** – Councilman Gorham said he had attended the Senior Citizens Valentine’s Day Party at RCARE on February 14; NAACP meeting at Elm Grove Baptist Church on February 18; the Planning Board meeting on February 19; the Senior Citizen’s Black History program at RCARE on February 20; Ribbon Cutting at Tractor’s Supply on February 21; Reidsville Downtown Corporation meeting at City Hall; the Men’s Fellowship meeting at Golden Corral, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting; Ann Ruston Community Watch meeting and the Human Relations Commission meeting all on February 25; and the Reidsville Senior High Playoff Basketball game on February 29, adding that Community Development Director Donna Setliff’s grandson did a good job scoring and hitting 3 three pointers; the Police Department Awards Ceremony on March 2; the Wentworth Street Community Watch meeting on March 2; the McLaurin Park Community Watch meeting on March 3; and the Rockingham County School Board meeting on March 9, 2020, where for about 15 seconds, he said laughing, that he was promoted to Mayor.

**Councilman Festerman** – Councilman Festerman said on a personal note he appreciated the Mayor honoring former Councilwoman Joan Zdanski at the beginning of tonight’s meeting. He said Mayor Donecker, Zdanski and himself joined the City Council in 1997. He said she was an inspiration to him personally and professionally and that he had the utmost respect for her and the things she was able to achieve in her lifetime. He said she will be sorely missed by those that had the opportunity to know her and the citizens of Reidsville.

**Councilwoman Walker** – Councilwoman Walker said she too had shared her monthly report with the City Clerk. (A COPY OF THAT REPORT IS HEREBY HEREIN INCOPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) She continued that she wanted to commend the City employees, detailing the actions of those at City Hall, Public Works, the Fire Department, and how hard they work. Councilwoman Walker also mentioned the Citywide blood drive scheduled for March 26, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. She challenged all of the Council members to give blood if possible. Lastly she asked Chief Hassell to come forward and share a few comments regarding the recent Police Department Awards Ceremony. Chief Hassell mentioned the Officer of the Year going to Sgt. Paschal; Rookie of the Year going to Officer Liebscher; and the recognition of Sgt. Paschal and Officer Moore for saving a life on two separate occasions.

Chief Hassell said one of the most touching events involved Sgt. Carter and Ms. King of the Police Department who have gone above and beyond to help a young man who came by the department seeking help. He said the man received encouragement and referrals

for service providers that have enabled him to go through a rehab program and as a result was assured, upon his graduation from the program, that he will receive custody of his child. Chief Hassell said the man was on hand at the ceremony and shared this success story, describing how this helping hand has changed his life. Chief Hassell said Sgt. Carter and Ms. King received the Distinguished Service Award at the recent awards ceremony.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENTS.**

City Clerk Angela Stadler announced the following unanimous (6-0 since Councilmember Scoble was unable to fill out a ballot) re-appointments to the Reidsville Appearance Commission: Carolyn Pillar of 1113 Barnes Street and Carlton Johnson of 1415 Brookwood Drive. (A COPY OF THE BALLOTS ARE HEREIN INCOPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Mayor Donecker said he wanted to announce that the machines for the Reidsville High School Machining Program have arrived, they just need the electricity hooked up and they will be ready to go. He added there is something special happening over at Moss Street, referring to the UNCG Lab School Program. He said the more the City Council members and their friends can interact with Principal Tina Chestnut, the better. He reiterated the word needs to be shared about all the good that is going on at the school, stating sometimes it feels like it is “under a lot of people’s radar”.

Mayor Donecker asked members of Council to be advised that coming up at the April City Council meeting, they will move forward with the endorsement for demolition of the house on Lindsey Street if it has not been brought up to code. He shared his thoughts about the lack of progress and stated that Community Development Manager Donna Setliff will be prepared to hand out bullet-points at that meeting regarding the action. He stated he hopes that he is proven wrong on April 14, 2020 and that the property owner has brought the dwelling up to code, but that from the look of things, it is not going to happen. Mayor Donecker said he just wants everyone informed and ready to address the issue at the next City Council meeting.

The Mayor said he wanted to compliment City Staff on the handling of the recent extensive press release regarding the City Council decision to raise Reidsville’s water and sewer rates by 5%. He explained it may not be the most popular decision, but the City of Reidsville is the only community that is collecting funds in excess of operating expenses in an effort to proactively upgrade the infrastructure so when businesses express an interest in moving to Reidsville, everything is in place and can move forward. He reiterated that the press release did a great job of explaining that completely. He asked if there was any other business to discuss.

Assistant City Manager Haywood Cloud came forward and said the Mayor’s wish about added interest in Moss Street School may take place sooner than he thinks. He said he had been involved with local Junior Achievement and their partnership with Reidsville Middle School last year. He continued that this year the plan is to partner with South End Elementary School. Assistant City Manager Cloud stated the City Manager Mitchell

insisted, if there was any way possible, to also include Moss Street Partnership School. Cloud said there will be five employees who will be working and making a difference between these two schools. Mayor Donecker said Principal Chestnut had mentioned the probability of this taking place and expressed his appreciation to Assistant City Manager Cloud for making this happen.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hairston and unanimously approved by Council in a 6-0 vote (Councilman Festerman had left a few minutes before) to adjourn.**

---

John M. "Jay" Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk