

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Preston W. Mitchell, City Manager  
Cindy Farris, Deputy City Clerk  
William F. McLeod, City Attorney  
Chuck Smith, Public Works Director  
Donna Setliff, Community  
Development Manager

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION.**

Reverend Bernard Florence, pastor of Galilee Greater International Pentecostal Holiness Church, 224 Pennsylvania Avenue, Reidsville, provided the invocation.

Mayor Donecker and Council led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RECOGNITIONS & PROCLAMATIONS:**

**RECOGNITION OF THE OLD SCHOOL BLOCK COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP.**

Mayor Donecker asked Ms. Catherine Wilson to come forward with regards to the Old School Block Community Outreach Group. The Mayor said he had planned on presenting this proclamation at the Reidsville Fall Jubilee but had somehow gotten his signals crossed regarding the time. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the group and also the impact The Block had on Reidsville. Ms. Wilson said the first time she met the Mayor was on the Block, and he was running for office. Ms. Wilson commented she is excited about Reidsville and when others may look for negative things to say, she counters with something positive. She thanked members of The Block Committee for pushing her and helping her to keep the history of The Block alive.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA.**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 - APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2018 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the October 9, 2018 regular meeting minutes.

**APPROVAL OF THE 2018 AUDIT CONTRACT EXTENSION.**

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved a contract extension with Cherry Bekeart & Holland per Assistant City Manager Chris Phillips' memo dated November 5, 2018. (A COPY OF PHILLIPS' MEMO IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES, ALONG WITH THE AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT TO AUDIT ACCOUNTS.)

**- End of Consent Agenda -**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE REZONING OF A PORTION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2923 VANCE STREET EXTENSION AS REQUESTED BY PROPERTY OWNERS JEFFREY AND MELISSA DILLON. (Z 2018-4)**

Community Development Director Donna Setliff came forward and gave her report regarding the rezoning request for the undeveloped portion of 2923 Vance Street Ext. (A COPY OF SETLIFF'S MEMO DATED OCTOBER 29, 2018, IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Setliff stated that the property owners Jeffrey and Melissa Dillon have submitted an application to rezone this portion from Residential Agricultural-20 to Residential-12. She added the developed portion of the property, which contains their home, will remain ResidentialAgricultural-20.

Setliff detailed the uses and zoning for the surrounding properties and said the Dillons would like the 7.2 acres to be developed. She said the tract could house approximately 25 single-family units or a multi-family complex that could house approximately 70 units, comparable to the Reidsville Ridge Apartments that have recently been constructed near Freeway Drive.

Setliff said the rezoning is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, is reasonable and in the public interest of the community as the Comprehensive Plan encourages high and medium density development. She said the Planning Board unanimously recommended in favor of the rezoning and stated the request is reasonable, in the public interest and consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Donecker asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions from Council. He opened the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. and asked if anyone had any comments.

Jeffrey Dillon of 2923 Vance Street Extension came forward and expressed his gratitude to everyone from the City, especially Donna Setliff and her team for assisting them with the rezoning process. He stated it is their desire to sell the property to a contractor, who would develop the property residentially.

The Mayor asked if there was anyone else who would like to address Council? No one else came forward. He closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

**Councilman Festerman made the motion that, based on the information provided in the staff report and verbal evidence presented during the public hearing, this request is reasonable, in the public interest and consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and other adopted land use plans and that the rezoning be approved. Councilman Hairston seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote.**

*(End of Public Hearings)*

**PRESENTATION ON COURTLAND PARK BOX CULVERT PROJECT.**

In making the staff report, Public Works Director Chuck Smith came forward and said on October 25, the City received informal bids for the Courtland Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project with Sam W. Smith having the lowest responsive, responsible bid at \$351,357.50. (A COPY OF THE BID TABULATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Public Works Director Smith detailed the history of the problem and offered concerns about the safety of that section of Courtland Avenue. He said he knows it is inconvenient for the citizens who live and travel the roadway but that, hopefully, the proposed 90-day project will begin the first part of December and be completed by the end of February 2019.

Mayor Donecker commented he had been approached about the problem of the “dip” by a concerned citizen. Shortly thereafter, Public Works put up the orange curtain and the lady’s husband had come to him and said he told his wife, “That’s what you get for complaining, now we have something worse than we did before,” the Mayor said. Public Works Director Smith explained how the problem has gotten worse over time with the subgrade of the road that has fallen down on top of the pipe that runs under the road. He said for the safety of the citizens, it warrants closing the road until repairs are made.

City Manager Mitchell commented that Smith, being relatively new, had inherited the issue and should be given the lion’s share of credit for seeing that the complicated project be addressed as soon as possible. The Mayor assured everyone that the project will be handled by a very reputable contractor, Sam W. Smith.

Councilmember Scoble said she was pleased the contract had gone to a local company but asked if Smith feels confident since there is about a \$47,000 difference in bids? Public Works Director Smith assured Council if certain parts of the project could have been done using the City's forces, they would have tried, but it was not cost effective. He said he feels confident Sam W. Smith will do a reputable job since the majority of their bid tabulation costs were largely placed on the actual box culvert, which is where the emphasis needs to be.

**“STATE OF THE CITY” MESSAGE.**

Mayor Jay Donecker presented a PowerPoint presentation on the “State of the City”. (A COPY OF THE POWERPOINT SLIDES ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) The Mayor said the presentation came about because of the recent announcement that Commonwealth would be relocating their manufacturing. He emphasized the similar concerns when, 20 years ago, American Tobacco announced they would be leaving Reidsville. He stressed at that time, tobacco and textiles were going through a process of change. The Mayor stated it wasn't long before someone came in and took over the American Tobacco facility and, within seven years, made a billion dollars.

The Mayor discussed each frame of the PowerPoint during the presentation. He said 20 years later we are still here, and we are doing well. He acknowledged that the Commonwealth closure will affect Reidsville, but we are looking ahead to future companies like Sanritsu joining the Industrial Park. He mentioned that the recruitment of facilities like Love's Travel sends the message that Reidsville is open to distribution centers. Mayor Donecker pointed out numerous positive steps the City Manager and members of Council and City staff had implemented to help increase new industries, employment opportunities, and relocation efforts, such as branding Reidsville as a desirable retirement destination. He concluded the presentation by complimenting the current City Council and said their diversity sets them apart, is an asset and that Reidsville is a “Can Do” City.

**BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:**

The ballots were then distributed for boards and commissions.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

No one came forward.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.**

City Manager Preston Mitchell referred to the items addressed in his November 13, 2018 City Manager's report. He shared information regarding the YMCA Quarterly Report for July, August and September; the Budget Transfer included in the Miscellaneous section; the Quarterly Financial Report submitted by Finance Director Chris Phillips; the shared information from ADTS Executive Director Cathy Powers regarding the success of the congregate meal program and numerous events listed under November events. (A COPY OF THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

## **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Brown** – Mayor Pro Tem Brown said he had attended the McLaurin Friendship Rally Fundraiser on October 13; the NAACP meeting at Elm Grove Baptist Church on October 16; the ribbon cutting for Dr. Zack Hall on October 30; the Lillian H. McLaurin Good Neighbor event on November 5; and the Economic Development meeting on November 8, 2018 announcing the new company Sanritsu, which is coming to Reidsville. Mayor Pro Tem Brown complimented Mayor Donecker on the PowerPoint presentation.

**Councilman Hairston** – Councilman Hairston expressed his appreciation for the efforts of everyone who helped to make this year's Fall Jubilee a success. He said he had volunteered at the festival on October 20; had attended the Ministerial Alliance meeting on October 22; Rockingham County Project Safe, involving local law enforcement on October 10; the NAACP meeting on October 16 and the NAACP Banquet on October 27; the Men's Fellowship meeting at Golden Corral on October 23; the Lone Star Lodge Halloween Candy/Hotdog Giveaway on October 31; the National League of Cities Conference in Los Angeles, where municipalities from all over the nation met. He said some spectacular things were discussed, but he found out that Reidsville is already doing several of those things mentioned and that Reidsville "is not the tail but is the head".

**Councilwoman Walker** – Councilwoman Sherri Walker said she had attended the ABC Board meeting on October 24; the Appearance Commission Board meeting on October 25; the ribbon cutting for Dr. Zack Hall's new facility on October 30; and the Staff Appreciation stew held at the Penn House on October 30, 2018. Councilwoman Walker said she had heard so many compliments regarding the City Public Works Department's efforts to clean up the City after the recent storms. She expressed her appreciation as well as the gratitude of the many, many constituents she heard from. Councilwoman Walker included the Police and Fire Departments in those words of appreciation also.

Councilwoman Walker shared information regarding the upcoming December 1, 2018 brunch benefiting the Reidsville Soup Kitchen, which will be catered by Café 99 and held at the Reidsville Downtown Event Center. She invited those present to come out and support this local event and stated it is the only fundraiser they hold each year. She said the tickets are \$25 and that you can see herself or Catherine Wilson for tickets. Councilwoman Walker also mentioned she had attended the National League of Cities Conference in Los Angeles, and she had learned so much and appreciated the City allowing members of Council to attend.

**Councilman Gorham** -- Councilman Gorham noted the activities and events he had attended as follows: the Chamber Business Showcase at the Salvation Army on October 12; the fire hydrant painting on October 13; the 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Elm Grove Baptist Church on October 14; the NAACP meeting at Elm Grove Baptist Church on October 16; the Planning Board meeting on October 17; the Jerusalem Holy Church's Men of Valor Stew at Jerusalem United Holy Church on October 20; the Reidsville Fall Jubilee on October 20; the Souls to the Polls at the Salvation Army on October 21; the

Reidsville Downtown Corporation meeting on October 23; the Men's Fellowship meeting at Golden Corral on October 23; the NAACP Banquet at Zion Baptist Church on October 27; the ribbon cutting for Dr. Zack Hall on October 30; the Staff Appreciation Halloween Luncheon at the Penn House on October 30; the Economic Development Announcement regarding Sanritsu Logistics America on November 8 and the double ribbon cutting for the Reidsville Chamber of Commerce's *Home Trust Bank* lobby and the Score Center held at the Chamber on November 13, 2018.

**Councilmember Scoble** -- Councilmember Scoble said she had observed the recent fire hydrant painting in the downtown area on October 13; had attended the Fine Arts Festival ribbon cutting in Wentworth on October 18; had volunteered for 15 hours at the Reidsville Fall Jubilee on October 20; had attended the City Staff Employee Stew at the Penn House on October 30, where she thanked all the City staff for all their hard work; the ribbon cutting for Dr. Zack Hall on October 30; the Chamber Coffee at Annie Penn Hospital on November 1; and the "We Promise" event at Reidsville High School on November 2, 2018.

Councilmember Scoble said she had the opportunity to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Los Angeles and agreed with Councilman Hairston that Reidsville is doing a lot of things right. She said it was so nice to be able to participate in this conference and expressed her gratitude to the City for being allowed to attend. She commented the City will receive a good return on that investment. Scoble said she had also attended the Chamber's Ribbon Cutting for the *Home Trust Bank* Lobby and Score Center on November 13, 2018.

**Councilman Festerman** -- Councilman Festerman complimented the Mayor again on the great PowerPoint presentation and suggested the Mayor "take it on the road". He said while he was also attending the NLC conference in LA, he received word about the homicides on Lawsonville Avenue. Councilman Festerman said his thoughts and prayers go out to the victims, even the perpetrator, but also to the police and firemen that had to respond to the call. He said he and Councilman Hairston, both being retired from the Police Department, understand how hard dealing with a scene like that can be. Councilman Festerman expressed his concern and hope that the City officers and those responding to the call will seek the available EAP counseling the City provides, if need be, because experiences like that can take a toll on someone. Lastly, he said he would like to share his appreciation, like former City Councilman John Gentry did for numerous years, for the fine men and women who serve this country in the U.S. Military. He said yesterday was Veteran's Day and he would like to acknowledge those in the Military, who serve us and keep us safe, some giving the ultimate sacrifice. He added how proud he is to be able to say his grandson is serving in the US Navy.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD & COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS.**

Mayor Donecker asked for the announcement of the Boards and Commission appointments.

Deputy City Clerk Cindy Farris announced the following appointments to the various boards and commissions (A COPY OF THE WRITTEN BALLOTS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.):

**Reidsville ABC Board** – Unanimously re-appointed to the Reidsville ABC Board was Mrs. Denise Brady of 601 Country Club Drive, Reidsville.

**Reidsville Planning Board** – Mr. W.E. “Skeeter” Coates of 1118 S. Main Street was unanimously appointed to the Reidsville Planning Board.

**Mayor Donecker** -- Mayor Donecker asked Chamber of Commerce President Diane Sawyer to share upcoming events from her report. Ms. Sawyer said she would like to acknowledge the November Chamber Member of the Month, Academy of Dance, who is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, before reviewing the upcoming events. She said the next Chamber Coffee will be hosted by the Rockingham County Education Foundation at Reidsville Middle School starting at 9 a.m. in the Media Center on December 6; the Dewey’s Holiday Bakery ribbon cutting at Rockingham County Hospice Home on November 15 at 11 a.m.; Small Business Saturday/Shop Local on November 24, which runs through December 17; the ribbon cutting on November 29 at 11 a.m. for the big “R” on Freeway Drive, which wraps up this NCDOT beautification/improvement project; and Breakfast with Santa on December 8. Sawyer also mentioned tickets are on sale at the Chamber office for the January 21, 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast at a cost of \$10 each.

Mayor Donecker said he only had a few items he would like to add. He expressed his appreciation to Rhonda Wheeler for preparing for the PowerPoint presentation, adding she does an excellent job. He shared his appreciation to Missy Matthews and those who did such a great job with the Fall Jubilee. He then announced the Christmas parade will take place on Sunday, November 18, 2018.

Mayor Donecker also echoed the comments of Councilman Festerman regarding his gratitude for our veterans. He praised the Public Works and Public Safety Departments for their quick response and attention to the small details related to the recent hurricanes and the damage they caused. He said in a matter of minutes, they were removing trees and directing traffic when the power went out. He said they did a tremendous and amazing job. Lastly, the Mayor mentioned the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reidsville Soup Kitchen and their upcoming fundraiser. He remarked that Reidsville is the smallest City in North Carolina that has a soup kitchen that is open and providing meals every day. He asked that those in attendance help support this good cause by coming out to the Annual Christmas Brunch on December 1, at 10 a.m.

Donna Setliff said she would like to add one item of interest. She mentioned the Reidsville Historic Preservation Commission is partnering with the Reidsville United Methodist Women in hosting the annual 2018 Christmas Homes Tour on December 8, 2018 from 12-5 p.m. She said the City-owned Governor Reid House will be on the tour.

**MOVE TO FIRST-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM FOR CLOSED SESSION  
PURSUANT TO G.S. 143-318.11 (A)(4) TO DISCUSS AN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

It was noted that the closed session had been cancelled.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**Councilman Festerman made the motion to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote.**

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John M. "Jay" Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cindy Farris, Deputy City Clerk