

**REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL**

September 19, 2022

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following members were present, to-wit: Mayor Pro Tempore Martha Sue Hall and Councilmembers Martha E. Hughes, Chris Whitley, Dexter Townsend, Bill Aldridge, and Shirley D. Lowder. Absent: Councilmember Benton Dry.

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Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, unanimously carried, the minutes of the September 6, 2022 regular and closed meetings were approved as submitted.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Ordinance 22-58 – To Consider Rezoning 16 Acres on Bethany Road from R-10 to LID (ZMA -22-12)

Council conducted a public hearing and considered of a rezoning request by Jeremy Honeycutt of 16.28 acres (Tax ID# 23235 & 16144) on Bethany Road from R-10/General Residential to LID/Light Industrial. The applicant is looking to change to LIT to match the surrounding properties and to possibly develop the property to have a personal and commercial storage facility.

Senior Planner Travis Swain presented the request and staff analysis to Council. LID zoning is defined by the Zoning Ordinance as being, “designed to accommodate industries and warehousing operations which can be operated in a relatively clean and quiet manner and which will not be obnoxious to adjacent residential and business districts.” LID zoning does allow for compartmentalized storage, however all uses should be considered for this request. The Future Land Use Map designates this site as primarily Industrial and Heavy Commercial area. Per the Future Land Use Plan this area is encouraged for heavy commercial and industrial growth based on close proximity to a major thoroughfare and access to sewer and water. Furthermore, the existing manufacturing business to the west, Martin Sprocket & Gear, and to the south, International Automotive, further supports the above requested rezoning. Given the proposed use, existing adjacent properties to the south and west currently zoned as Heavy Industrial District, as well as the subject properties being designated as Commercial and Industrial Areas on the Future Land Use Map, there are merits for the proposed rezoning to be consistent with the City’s 2028 Future Land Use Plan.

The Planning/Zoning Board unanimously recommended for approval of the rezoning request with a consistency statement at its September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting.

The Mayor asked Council if they had any questions. Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked for clarification on whether there were stipulations/conditions for this rezoning request. There are none.

The Mayor called for the public hearing to be opened and asked if anyone would like to speak on the topic. No one came forward.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, unanimously carried, Council closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, unanimously carried, Council approved Ordinance 22-58 which contains ZMA 22-12 with the following consistency statement:

The Albemarle City Council finds the action to amend Tax Record 16144 and a portion of Tax Record 23235 from R-10/General Residential to LID/Light Industrial District to be consistent with the adopted 2028 Land Use Plan. More specifically Section Five: Goals, Objectives and Strategies, Policy Directives Objectives O-2.d, O-5.a, and O-5.f. Council finds the light industrial district zoning on this parcel to be reasonable and in the public interest.

[Ordinance 22-58 – To Consider Rezoning 16 Acres on Bethany Road from R-10 to LID (ZMA -22-12)]

Ordinance 22-59 – To Consider the Annexation of 86 Acres on City Lake Drive (AX-22-0X)

Council conducted a public hearing and considered annexation 85.53 acres +/- (Tax ID# 13976) on City Lake Drive as petitioned by SDH Charlotte LLC, for a future subdivision.

Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson presented the request and staff analysis to Council. The 85.53 acre City Lake Drive property is a vacant parcel that is contiguous to our current City Limits that encompasses Stanly Community College, Phases I & II of the Parkwest Subdivision and another vacant parcel that fronts Poplin's Grove Church Road & City Lake Drive. This is a new application for annexation, whereby the applicant's initial annexation request was voted down by Council in fall 2021. The applicants have conducted additional environmental studies and have re-applied for annexation. The applicants met with local residents on August 19th to discuss environmental concerns, and the Planning and Zoning Board re-considered the re-zoning request on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

The applicant has proposed to develop this site with approximately 170-190 single family units. Staff believes the development of this site is likely to have a range between 170 and 230 single family. This will add between 411 and 556 new residents to Albemarle on built out. This is an increase of 2.47 to 3.34 % over our existing population.

Projected Total Revenues: Based upon assumed build-out numbers, development of this property in the City of Albemarle would likely produce a minimum of \$339,233 and a maximum of \$458,548 in annual revenue for the City. This is combined property tax, sales tax, motor vehicle tax and Powell bill taxes. Current figures show a potential net annual surplus in revenues from this development of \$82,000 - \$111,000 after street maintenance and public safety expenses. As shown, this represents approximately 75% of the projected revenues from this development.

These properties are not located in the regulated watershed or floodplain. There does not appear to be any other significant environmental impacts on these properties. Stormwater runoff was a concern of neighboring residents at previous hearings about this property. The applicants have done some studies and are meeting with residents to offer options to help mitigate potential runoff.

The Mayor asked Council if they had any questions. Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked what has changed since the developer's first annexation request. Mr. Robinson noted that not much has changed since the first annexation application was presented to Council last year.

The Mayor called for the public hearing to be opened and asked if anyone would like to speak on the topic.

A group of representatives for the applicant came forward to summarize this current annexation request. This request would become an extension of 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Parkwest currently undergoing development. There is planned connection of this 2<sup>nd</sup> phase development with the proposed annexed property to be developed. Based on concerns by neighboring residents from the last annexation request, the developer conducted a hydrology study. The developer is amenable to placing stormwater controls on site to alleviate flooding. The study focused on tree removal during development of the surrounding area and drainage patterns. The developer presented maps and summarized a plan to install a series of water retention basins (ponds) across the proposed development, which would slightly decrease lot yield for the proposed development associated with this annexation request. In terms of traffic concerns, the developer would make sure to work with NCDOT to conduct a traffic study, although there is planned street connections between the development being built and the proposed development, with estimated increased traffic flow of 1 additional car (per hour) over the current flow.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked the developers if they had met with residents before resubmitting the annexation application. The developers replied that they had with a few residents back in August, some of whom are here tonight.

The Mayor asked if anyone else wanted to come forward to speak.

Carla Weyrick, residing at 35737 City Lake Drive in Albemarle came forward. She began by stating that she did not get to meet with the developers in August but sent an email to Council about this request last week. She recounted how her parents' home is located in this area and that the family home has been subject to flooding several times over the years. She noted that since the stormwater management plan has not been approved yet, the City would not be able to help residents much if flooding still occurred or became worse with the proposed new development this annexation request would bring. She also stated that with the way the road curves, any new traffic volume would create more traffic issues, particularly those drivers not being able to handle driving around curves ending up on someone's property creating damage.

Councilmember Whitley and Ms. Weyrick had a discussion about some flooding videos she played in front of Council and whether or not the developers saw them.

Mr. Robinson came in front of Council to discuss how NCDOT would potentially address the flooding issues during its Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA), but admitted that although NCDOT would be able to find some answers for traffic control, it would be unlikely they would be able to do so for flooding control.

Mr. Joshua Ballinger, residing at 530 Meadowrock Drive in Albemarle, briefly commented that it sounded like there really wasn't an answer to the flooding concerns for the area in question thus far, and that should be considered when making a decision on this annexation request.

Ms. Katie Tobias, residing at 504 Azure Avenue in Albemarle and president of the homeowner's association for the original Parkwest subdivision came forward. She confirmed that her subdivision experiences flooding as well. She believes that the phase 2 development made flooding worse by clearcutting. The developer did install a retention pond on Poplin's Church Grove Road for her subdivision and she stated that she felt that the pond did nothing to help the flooding problem. She maintained that the City considers this area of the City low priority in terms of services, but businesses have sprung up there and the City supported them but not the surrounding community in terms of traffic and street access.

Ms. Helen Simonson residing at a Charlotte address but stating her relationship to the issue as a scientist specializing in wetlands conservation came in front of Council. She referenced 2 papers and read both paper abstracts to argue that clearcutting and development negatively impacts communities and wildlife, including increased flooding. She recapped her interactions with the developer and Mr. Robinson, reading part of an email response from him aloud to Council. She implored Council to partner with NCDOT now rather than later in the process when the subdivision was being considered. She asked if the City was applying for ARPA funds to which the Mayor replied that a grant application has been submitted to try to obtain funds to help with flooding management and control.

Thomas Townsend residing at 36534 Cooper Road and stating that he was a homebuilder, came in front of Council to make brief remarks opposing the annexation request. He stated that if clearcutting were to happen for a subdivision that size flooding was to be expected because of the increased impervious surfaces being added. He believed that a city/county/NCDOT partnership could help work through this issue for that community.

The developer group came back in front of Council to offer their rebuttal. Council received a map/preliminary site plan as discussed in their opening remarks to show the retention ponds overlaid on a topographical map of the area. They believed that the retention ponds would address the flooding concerns. The Mayor discussed with the developers the slope of the land between the proposed lots and the retention ponds for clarification on water drainage and runoff patterns.

Ms. Weyrick came back in front of council with a brief rebuttal.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, with a vote of 6 Council members for the motion and 1 against, Council denied Ordinance 22-59 for the annexation of an 86 acre property on City Lake Drive (AX-22-0X). Councilmember Whitley stated that he

was against the denial because he thought that clearcutting and its effects on flooding needed to be controlled by NCDOT.

[Ordinance 22-59 – To Consider the Annexation of 86 Acres on City Lake Drive (AX-22-0X)]

Ordinance 22-60 – To Consider Rezoning 86 Acres on City Lake Drive from County R-A to City R-10 (ZMA-22-11)

NOTE – Due to the denial of the annexation request, this rezoning request was not heard by Council.

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### **UNANNOUNCED DELEGATIONS**

Mr. Joshua Ballinger – To Discuss Chapter 68 of the Code of Ordinances as it Pertains to a Drag Show Being Hosted on September 24th

Mr. Ballinger began by stating his name and address (530 Meadowrock Drive in Albemarle) for the record. He noted that his reason for being in front of Council was a drag show being advertised for Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>. He further noted the sponsoring entertainment company putting the show on, DKO Entertainment.

Although the show is being advertised as 18+ years old to enter and is being held at a private business, the promotional material does not say anything about whether adults can bring minors to the show. He then quoted from the website of the entertainment company which described other events elsewhere which included interaction with children. He is aware that Tiffany's at the Boardroom is the business hosting the drag show on the 24<sup>th</sup> and that both showings of the show are sold out.

Mr. Ballinger then read the segment of Chapter 68 of the City's Code of Ordinances aloud to Council about what the City prohibited in terms of adult entertainment and nudity.

He requested that Council add an ordinance to discourage minors from being brought to events such as the one on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor then called Clint Lewey forward to speak. Mr. Lewey came forward and stated his address, 14314 St. Johns Drive in Stanfield. He is a pastor and considers entertainment events such as the drag show lewd behavior and not representing the values of Stanly County. He believes that by having this event here other such events would follow. He requested that Council either issue a statement that they don't condone such activities in this community, or consider a resolution to such effect.

The Mayor called Tiffany Dahle of Tiffany's at the Boardroom to come up to speak. Ms. Dahle first noted that she has lived her entire life in Stanly County in a family which supported free thinking and tolerance of others. As a business owner in Albemarle, she has been made aware of communities who are hiding because of what they believe, and so wanted to be a welcoming influence to those communities. She stated that the fact the two drag shows are sold out to her demonstrates

that there that there is encouragement of the arts in Albemarle. The entertainment company sat down with her well ahead of scheduling the shows to discuss what the entertainment will be and whether it is in line with local laws. She stated that there would be no nudity at the show.

Council thanked all three people for speaking with them tonight.

Brandon King – To Comment on Rezoning Request of Six Parcels Totaling 4 Acres on Johnson Street and Highway 52 North from GHBD and R-10 to HID

Mr. King, co-owner of MHK Property Management LLC, came in front of Council as an unannounced delegate regarding his company's rezoning request, which was heard by Council on August 1<sup>st</sup> and denied. His complaint centered around the perceived lack of communication between his company and the Planning and Development Services Department about potential issues with the operation of his business and attempts to negotiate a mutually agreeable course of action prior to the public hearings held. He then noted that tonight's rezoning hearing was very similar to his company's and was easily passed by Council, whereas his company's request was denied. He stated that he wanted to maintain his company's partnership with the City. He asked Council to consider his situation.

The Mayor asked Mr. King if he would be willing to start the rezoning process over. Mr. King replied that he would but his preference would not be to go through it if it meant denial by Council again.

Councilmember Aldridge summarized his recollection of the rezoning request as one which hinged on the definition of a temporary storage lot. He said that Council was open to whatever zoning could do, and looked to the Planning and Development Services Department to guide them on that process, but that also Council supports business. To that effect if Mr. King decides to reapply for a rezoning request, he supported waiving the rezoning fees for the company's reapplication.

Councilmember Aldridge called a motion to waive the rezoning application fee for MHK Property Management LLC, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall and unanimously carried. The motion passed.

Jake Furr – Public Records Policy, Public Commenting Policy, and Closed Session Minutes

Mr. Furr, who resides at 1247 Salisbury Avenue in Albemarle, came in front of Council as an unannounced delegate for the 3 topics noted. He first commented regarding the drag show controversy, that as a resident he hoped that both sides kept things civil out of consideration for the rest of residents who live here, as no one wanted Albemarle to be in the news for that.

He began by stating that he had submitted a public records request for closed minutes for the last 6 months. He was told by staff that there is a General Statute related to closed minutes but that the process of sealing and unsealing these minutes is not contained in the General Statutes. Then he went through his understanding of the Statute in question that closed minutes should be released as soon as it doesn't frustrate the reason for keeping them sealed. He contended that those minutes should be made public. He asked staff when was the last time closed minutes were unsealed and hadn't

gotten a response yet from staff. He then posed the question to Council. The Mayor stated that the process was moving forward to do that now. Mr. Furr pressed the Mayor on the timing of the last unsealing of closed minutes by Council. The Mayor and Mr. Furr engaged in a discussion about unsealing closed records by Council, the timing of that process, and the last time Council engaged in that process. The Mayor stated that process would come in front of Council soon.

Mr. Furr stated that he thought there would be a process Council considered tonight for closed minutes unsealing, and wondered aloud about the timing of his public records requests and the passage of the public records request policy and the Public Housing residents' appearance at a Council meeting and the public commenting policy. His opinion is that these policies stifle the public, and the lack of transparency surrounding closed session minutes could potentially be a way of hiding what Council discussed which might be not above level or embarrassing.

Related to the public commenting policy, Mr. Furr contended that for an anonymous letter read into the record for a recent rezoning hearing last month which could or could not have swayed Council's decision, he questioned whether the letter was legitimate rather than being penned by someone on Council. He felt that maybe for that reason the public commenting policy should be revisited by Council.

Councilmember Aldridge posed a question about closed minutes and discussing personnel issues. Council asked the City Attorney to review what could and could not be unsealed. The City Attorney explained that personnel discussions regarding personnel actions could remain sealed until such time as the employee actions are taken, such as suspension, promotion, hiring, termination.

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#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Adam Kiker, LKC Engineering – Discussion on Funding Utility Projects and

Resolution 22-33 – Funding Application for Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mr. Kiker with LKC Engineering was present to discuss with Council updates on funding applications for utility projects, as well as new potential opportunities for funding under the City's new distressed utility designation. LKC plans to resubmit for funding for the Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant rehabilitation project by the end of this month. He reminded Council that the City hasn't drawn down yet on financing the City received already. He stated that the City is in a better position to obtain funding now that the state has designated Albemarle a distressed utility municipality which places the City into a smaller group of competitors for funds.

Part of the funding application process is a requirement of a resolution passed by the governing board at the time of application. This resolution is to formally request State loan and/or grant assistance for the planned Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant rehabilitation project.

Council and Mr. Kiker discussed whether ARPA funds should be used or whether the water and sewer funds should be sustaining a variety of upgrade and rehabilitation projects that are needed for water and wastewater operations. Mr. Kiker noted that the state funds being sought via the grant applications LKC is submitting are ARPA funds, and that the City should continue seeking these grant funds specifically targeted for infrastructure needs.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council adopted Resolution 22-33 approving the submission of a grant application to the state for the Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant rehabilitation project.

[Resolution 22-33 - Funding Application for Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant]

#### Departmental Monthly Reports

Council reviewed August 2022 departmental monthly reports. The Mayor asked if anyone on Council had any questions or comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall had a few comments and questions. First she stated that she would like to see if general comments made during exit interviews could be passed on to Council. Related to the Police report, she noted that the drug take back event in the spring netted a lot of turned in drugs and wondered if more advertising of the drug take back events should occur. She asked a question about Public Housing expenditures in the Finance report, to which City Manager Michael J. Ferris replied that the amount expended was not drawn from the capital funds budget.

She raised the question of timing of stormwater plan coming back in front of Council, where Mr. Ferris noted to Council that First Tryon would be instrumental in that discussion, and that Council agreed in the last meeting to changing the October planning/budget Council work session to the middle of November for incoming and outgoing Council members where Frist Tryon would be present.

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#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

##### Ordinance 22-61 – Capital Project Budget AMI Meter Upgrade

During the Budget development process for FY 22/23, the City Manager instructed the then Public Utilities Director to utilize our Electric Fund Reserves in order to address the conversion in a comprehensive process. The attached project budget ordinance is for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrade project. The Electric Fund is contributing \$2,250,000 and the Water Sewer Fund is contributing \$350,000. These funds are budgeted and the Ordinance moves the funds amounts into a Capital Project Budget.

[Ordinance 22-61 – Capital Project Budget AMI Meter Upgrade]

##### Ordinance 22-62 – Amending the FY 2022-23 Operating Budget

The attached ordinance is to make a clerical adjustment to the Water Sewer Fund operating budget. This is in regards to the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrade capital project being presented to Council for consideration. This does not increase the budget for the Water Sewer Fund, only moving the appropriations for AMI from the Systems Division budget function to the Interfund Transfers budget function.

The reason the Electric Fund does not have a similar adjustment is that it was originally budgeted for as an Interfund Transfer. This adjustment will allow for Water Sewer Funds to be combined with Electric Funds into the project budget for ease of project management and capitalization purposes.

[Ordinance 22-62 – Amending the FY 2022-23 Operating Budget]

Ordinance 22-63 – 2022 Public Housing Capital Funds

Public Housing Director Dr. Kim Scott has advised the proposed 5-year capital plan has been approved by HUD. To expend the funds locally, the attached ordinance will need to be adopted to appropriate the 2022 capital fund program for Improvements and Modernization of Public Housing per the 5-year plan.

[Ordinance 22-63 – 2022 Public Housing Capital Funds]

Consider Road Closure for Fellowship of Christian Athletes 5K Run/Walk

Uwharrie Dash will host a 5K run/walk for Fellowship of Christian Athletes on Saturday, November 19th at 8:00 am. Uwharrie Dash is requesting road closure on N. Third St. from Cannon St. to Montgomery Ave. from 8:00 am - 11:00 am.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council approved the following:

- Ordinance 22-61 for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrade project;
- Ordinance 22-62 to make a clerical adjustment to the Water Sewer Fund operating budget;
- Ordinance 22-63 adopted to appropriate the 2022 capital fund program for Improvements and Modernization of Public Housing per the 5-year plan; and
- Road closures for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Purchasing Policy Update

Finance Director Jacob Weavil, along with Assistant Finance Director Kimber Hurlocker and Purchasing Coordinator Linda Lewis, came in front of Council to present the modified purchasing policy and take questions from Council. This revised edition contains a comprehensive overhaul of the City's Purchasing Policy. The process has been a team effort over the course of 1 year to research purchasing policies of other municipalities and UNC School of Government (SOG) guidance, meeting with the Leadership Team, and working through modifications to ensure they align with the City's Strategic Plan.

- There are no proposed changes to the Delegation of Authority.
- Sections have been reordered in an attempt to make the policy more user friendly.

- Sections that contain duplicative guidance already noted elsewhere have been consolidated.
- New sections have been added and certain sections have been expanded upon when it has been deemed appropriate.
- Section 4.8 has been added to specifically address HUD regulations for Public Housing

More specifically, HUD regulations and resources have been cited in the Public Housing section, emergency purchasing procedures have been detailed per SOG guidance, and procurement thresholds have been modified upward based on comparative research to like sized municipalities and to match with state and federal procurement laws.

Councilmember Hughes asked if HUD procurement thresholds are the same as general ones in the modified purchasing policy. Mr. Weavil replied that this question has been posed to HUD and the City is awaiting a response. If the public wanted to see this where would they be able to access it? The policy can be placed on the City's website.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, unanimously carried, Council approved the modified purchasing policy as submitted.

#### Sole Source Tantalus for Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Public Utilities Director Jay Voyles came in front of Council to discuss the sole source provider request with Council. Tantalus is a company that provides advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) to agencies looking to migrate from other methods of meter control and data collection. This is otherwise known as "smart meters". Tantalus is the only company licensed to fully read Itron encoder receiver transmitters (ERT's) which is the electric and water meter infrastructure in Albemarle's standard detail and specifications. The attached material should serve to prove that Tantalus is the only AMI solution provider to assist Albemarle with this migration without unreasonable cost or timelines.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, unanimously carried, Council approved Tantalus as a sole source provider for AMI migration.

#### Public Power Week Agenda

Jay Voyles, Director of Public Utilities, provided a brief update on activities planned for Public Power Week which will be held October 3rd through the 7th.

Every day that week social media will carry stories of how power works in the City. There will be a Public Power table set up in the lobby of City Hall with giveaways. Public Utilities staff will visit Park Ridge Christian School on Tuesday and Central Elementary on Wednesday for live demonstrations. Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked if other levels/grades of public schools were being invited to Wednesday's event. After brief discussion with Mr. Voyles, Mayor Pro Tem Hall noted that she personally would extend invitations to other Albemarle schools to participate in the Wednesday event.

#### Consider Peel Scooter Agreement

The agenda packet included a contract governing the use of the scooters, provided by Peel, for Council's consideration and approval.

This is a pilot program, and the contract is for the use of 20 scooters for a period of 12 months. Scooter usage will be prohibited on sidewalks in the downtown area. Peel is able to ban user's accounts who repeatedly violate rules or policies pertaining to the use of the scooters. Peel will use hang tags on the scooters and informational pop-ups in the Peel App to educate users on how to properly operate the scooters.

City Attorney Britt Burch briefly summarized the highlights of the contract of interest to Council, namely indemnification, insurance, liability clauses as well as clauses per Council's recommendation at the last Council meeting adding the prohibition of sidewalk use downtown.

Alex Zimmermann, a representative from Peel Scooters, came before Council to answer any new questions Council had about scooter operations thus far. He noted that after he met with Council at the last meeting the company made the remote operational changes on scooter operation. Should Council approve the contract tonight, the company will have informational hangtags and the City requirements in the scooter operations application. Will the hangtags cite the age allowance to operate scooters? Yes they will. Are there other methods to distribute information about the scooters? City Manager Michael J. Ferris replied that social media posts have been designed for release after Council approval.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, unanimously carried, Council approved the Peel Scooter contract with the City as presented to Council.

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### **COMMENTS**

The Mayor began by thanking Councilmember Townsend for organizing and hosting the grill off event at EE Waddell Community Center this past Saturday.

#### Councilmember Townsend:

- He thanked City staff who attended, particularly Parks and Recreation staff and Billy McRae, and Police Chief Bollhorst for entering food into the grill off. He appreciates the support.
- He noted that someone in the community who is a food vendor asked how to access the Badin Brews event as a food vendor. Sunny Day Markets would need to be contacted to discuss options for local vendors. He hopes that those events can be inclusive of City vendors too.
- He is continuing to receive complaints about speeding occurring still on multiple streets in the City. Are there other measures that can be used to address this issue? The City needs to find solutions.

#### Councilmember Hughes:

- Can anyone provide an update on the Public Housing resident at 1446 Inger Street? The Mayor replied that Assistant Director of Public Housing Darlene Hughes spoke with him on Friday that HUD approved funds to fix the unit in the Family Life Center, and that Public Housing just

needed to turn in paperwork before work can begin there. How will items that Public Housing residents raised in the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting be addressed? The Mayor spoke to Stogner after that meeting and they both have planned a walk through in the very near future. The Mayor thought that instead of doing patchwork with sewer issue, the full treatment should be done. Ms. Hughes commented that Council needs to address all of residents' complaints.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall:

- Does the Public Housing Department have an inspector on the public housing side? Mr. Ferris replied that the Section 8 inspector has been inspecting public housing units also, with Public Housing maintenance staff contributing to the effort.
- She congratulated Police Chief Bollhorst on the recent officer pinning ceremony held. She requested that Council be notified of future ceremonies so Council can provide support. She inquired about the 1 cadet who resigned, where Chief Bollhorst explained the cadet's situation prompting him to resign.
- At a recent COG meeting she discovered that there is a grant workshop in the first week of October and suggested that City staff might consider attending. She also reminded Council that there is a paid contractor to submit federal and state grant applications for municipalities.
- She has noticed more speeding on North 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Park Ridge headed south by the turn especially since school started.

Councilmember Whitley:

- He enjoyed the grill off Councilmember Townsend hosted.
- He attended the Dinner on Main event this past weekend and folks always put on a great event. He encouraged the public to attend next year.
- At the RPO workgroup session last week the group heard a presentation by NCDOT on the electric vehicle program, looking to put out additional grants for more electric vehicle charging stations in the future.
- Update on the NCDOT Bethany Bridge project – it should be open next month. Related to the Highway 24/27 widening project, the eastern portion of the construction zone is on schedule, whereas the western portion is a little behind schedule, with work scheduled to be completed in 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall and the Mayor discussed two events being scheduled next Wednesday that they both will be attending: the Mayor will be at the mayor's conference and Mayor Pro Tem Hall was asked to speak about ARPA at a meeting hosted by NCLM, both in Greensboro.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, unanimously carried, Council approved moving into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with the City Attorney, and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

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**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, Council returned to open session. The Mayor stated that a closed session was held pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with the City Attorney, and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

There was nothing to report.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall.