

The Washington City Council met in a regular session on Monday, December 12, 2016 at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Mac Hodges, Mayor; Virginia Finnerty, Mayor Pro tem; Doug Mercer, Councilmember; Richard Brooks, Councilmember; Larry Beeman, Councilmember and William Pitt, Councilmember. Also present: Bobby Roberson, City Manager; Franz Holscher, City Attorney and Cynthia S. Bennett, City Clerk.

Mayor Hodges called the meeting to order and Councilmember Pitt delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Finnerty, Council approved the minutes of November 14, 2016 as presented.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council approved the agenda as presented.

RECOGNITION:

*Lt. Josh Ingram of Washington Fire-Rescue-EMS –
Beaufort County Police Activities League Award*

**For his involvement in the community educating the youth and elderly about fire safety/fire prevention*

*Officer Christopher Hobbs of Washington Police Department–
Beaufort County Police Activities League Award*

**For helping a disoriented Alzheimer's patient, keeping her calm until family arrived after responding to a security alarm at her home (not pictured – absent)*

*Communications Technician Ashley Sullivan of Washington Police Department
– Beaufort County Police Activities League Award*

**For helping establish "Project I Live Alone", which allows law enforcement to check in on elderly residents who live alone. Currently 70 members in this program.*



Mayor Hodges poses for a photo with Fire Chief, Robbie Rose; Police & Fire Services Director, Stacy Drakeford, Lt. Josh Ingram and Ashley Sullivan (Officer Christopher Hobbs, not pictured)

CONSENT AGENDA:

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council approved the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Accept – Revised 2015-2016 Annual Grant from Mid-East Commission Area Agency on Aging
- B. Accept – Annual Grant from Mid-East Commission Area Agency on Aging
- C. Approve – Land Application of Bio-solids Purchase Order

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Buzz Cayton expressed his concerns regarding the 15th Street project and asked if NCDOT had an impact/engineering study performed which details the impact of stormwater surge on existing floodwater. Mr. Cayton inquired if NCDOT is aware of the flooding situations in this area. In addition, Mr. Cayton stated he is reinforcing Mr. Mercer's suggestion of the installation of additional stoplights, better positioning of turning signals and then using some of the directional sticks similar to the ones on River Road if needed. It appears the design will cause more problems than help. He understands there is a 264 bypass in the plans for the future; this will hopefully clear up the majority of the problems on 15th Street. Mr. Cayton inquired if any of this money could be diverted for the future 264 bypass.

Mayor Hodges asked Mr. Buck how much the additional lanes on 15th Street would affect this area relating to flooding. Mr. Buck said NCDOT would be looking at 12th and Brown Street and other locations to improve the flooding issues in this area. Mr. Buck said a lot of the pipes in this area will be upsized to help with flooding according to the NCDOT design team. Councilmember Mercer asked for clarification regarding improving the flooding issues near the mall being the impervious surface will be increased. Mr. Buck said the drainage pipes would be enlarged to move more water. Councilmember Pitt stated he attended the meeting with NCDOT and one of their concerns was to help eliminate flooding. Mr. Buck voiced the City also needs to look at what they would stand to gain for water and sewer improvements; noting there is 1 ½ miles of water/sewer infrastructure improvements that will be made at no cost to the city.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

INGRID STEPHAN – SKYDIVE LITTLE WASHINGTON – *request removed

PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING - 6:00PM: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING – OTHER – 6:00PM: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

MEMO – SAVE THE POOL FUNDRAISER UPDATE *(accepted as presented)*

Kristi Roberson reviewed the memo concerning the fundraising events for the pool and note Friday will conclude fundraising efforts for 2016. Council commended Kristi and the committee for their fundraising efforts.

We are continuing to sell t-shirts and tiles. We have currently raised \$30,843.86.

The following fundraiser is scheduled for December.

December 16 Save the Pool – Swim with Santa

MEMO – FIREFIGHTER’S RELIEF FUND BOARD APPOINTEES *(approved as presented)*

During the 2016 Legislative session, House Bill 18 revised General Statute 58-84-30 with language that eliminated the annual election requirement of the two fire department members and the reappointment of two members by the City Council of a municipal department that serve on the board of trustees of the local fireman’s relief fund board. The following is the statutory language of GS58-84-30(1) Trustees Appointed; Organization. These changes became effective June 30, 2016.

- (1) The members of the fire department shall hold an election to elect two representatives to the board to serve at the pleasure of the members of the department. The elected representatives may serve until their resignation or until the department holds an election to replace them. Board members elected pursuant to this subdivision shall be either (i) residents of the fire district or (ii) active retired members of the fire department.*
- (2) The mayor and board of alderman or other governing body shall appoint two representatives to the board to serve at the pleasure of the governing body. Board members appointed pursuant to this subdivision shall be residents of the fire district.*

The current Firefighter’s Relief Fund Board members are as follows:

- Fire Department Appointees: Mr. Charles Alligood and Mr. William Alligood*
- City Council Appointees: Mr. Raymond Williams and Mr. Richard Brooks*
- NC Insurance Commissioner Appointee: Mrs. Amber Carter – Treasurer*

Chief Rose stated we no longer have to make these appointments every year due to a change in statutory requirements. Councilmember Mercer commented there are no problems with those individuals serving but as he previously stated last January, he feels that City Council should make the Council appointment.

MEMO – RETIRE NC CONTRIBUTION FUNDING (approved as presented)

Funds available in the Economic Development Projects line item, 10-00-4650-4500, of the Economic Development department of the General Fund are appropriated for projects such as Retirement NC. The \$2,000 contribution approved at the November 14, 2016 Council meeting is being paid from this account.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:

HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL (accepted as presented)

MISSION STATEMENT

- To promote social and economic equality in the community, working with Local Government and other resources
- To appreciate the cultural and ethnic diversity of the citizens of Washington and Beaufort County
- To encourage citizens to live and work together in harmony and mutual respect

OLD BUSINESS:

Brainstorm – New Project: - Board member Griffin addressed how to proceed with this new project. Sub-committee not formed at this time but the suggestion was given for Board member Horton to reach out to area churches, pastors, and/or church representatives. Board members discussed formulating a letter that would enable Board member Horton to introduce the idea to the churches “building a community”, or “binding a community”, as a point of interest. Also, instructions were given to include a form inquiring if the churches would like to participate.

The meeting (brunch) was tentatively scheduled for the 4th Saturday in January (1-28-2017) at 11:00AM. Board member Griffin agreed to contact the First United Methodist Church as the first choice of venue. In case we will need another meeting place, the following locations were suggested.

- Open Hearts
- Ne'er Do Well

Other items of concern:

- Be careful not to offend anyone
- Is there a Jewish Temple in Washington?
- Contact the Rotary Club to see if assistance can be obtained in sponsoring this event as it is a community based activity

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

OTHER BUSINESS:

FYI – All FYI items and reminders were discussed inclusive of the October 18, 2016 report submitted to City Council, financial report, and Board member Hammond's absentee letter.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Proclamation signage and photo shoot with Mayor Hodges scheduled for Monday, 1-23-2017 @5:00pm in the Council Chambers.

APPOINTMENT: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

ADOPT – PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Bryant Buck, Executive Director - Mid-East Commission provided the following background: Mid-East Commission presented the proposed Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan to the Washington Recreation Advisory Committee on October 3, 2016. The RAC made a recommendation to approve the plan and have it presented to the Planning Board at their next meeting. Mid-East Commission presented the proposed Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan to the Planning Board on November 29, 2016. The plan passed with the exception of continuing to extend the Jack's Creek Greenway.

City of Washington – Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan Update

- Funded through a Region 10 Community Transformation Grant - \$10,000 Grant

- Given new guidelines/requirements for submitting Bicycle and Pedestrian projects to NCDOT for consideration for funding, it is absolutely essential that they be included in an updated plan.

- *The Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan not only includes proposed projects, but also looks at what steps the City can take to foster a pedestrian friendly environment for users of all ages.*

- *Based on the feedback from the Steering Committee, the public, an existing conditions inventory, an evaluation of Washington's socio-demographics, and the city's pedestrian crash data, several themes were established that guided the development of goals and objectives. These themes include:*

- *Improved Safety*
- *Education*
- *Connectivity and Accessibility*
- *Pedestrian Amenities*
- *Enforcement*

- *During plan development, several existing projects from the 2006 plan as well as new potential projects were identified that would improve the existing pedestrian network. Some projects that were included in the 2006 plan that were included in the update were changed from their original recommendation.*

- *A wide range of projects have been identified to make Washington more pedestrian-friendly. Physical improvements including adding sidewalks, multi-use (where possible), and shared-use paths are recommended. Forty-three (43) projects are recommended including:*

- *27 sidewalk additions*
- *1 shared use path*
- *Continuation of Jack's Creek Greenway - removed*
- *1 fence replacement (Completed prior to adoption of this Plan)*
- *15 crosswalk improvements*

On June 10, 2013, the City adopted the Grant Project Ordinance for the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) to complete a Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan for the City of Washington Parks and Recreation Department through Mid-East Commission. The CTG grant was for \$10,000 and no City match was required.

Councilmember Mercer commented the project was funded in 2013 and felt it should have been completed much sooner. Mr. Buck stated many sources had to come together to get this project completed.

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council adopted the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan as presented noting every item in the plan will not be done until funded by the City and approved by the Council.

AUTHORIZE – MANAGER TO EXECUTE REVISED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BEAUFORT COUNTY POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE AT WASHINGTON-WARREN AIRPORT

City Manager, Bobby Roberson stated minor changes were made to the agreement. City Attorney, Franz Holscher reviewed the minor changes in the PAL lease voicing it did not change a great deal. Staff submitted some of the changes and some suggested revisions were submitted by PAL.

Councilmember Mercer noted concern with the paragraph regarding “display”. Also, concern was expressed regarding the construction of a storage building and who grants authority for the construction of the storage building. Mr. Holscher noted they cannot construct a separate facility for storage unless they get written approval. Councilmember Mercer inquired approval from whom? Mr. Holscher and Councilmember Mercer suggested final approval should be from the City Manager.

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council unanimously authorized the City Manager to execute the amended lease agreement with B.C.P.A.L. for a ground site lease at Washington-Warren Airport with changes as suggested by Councilmember Mercer and the City Attorney so that prior written approvals will be from the City Manager.

AUTHORIZE/ADOPT – EXECUTION OF DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT AND ADOPT GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE

City Manager, Bobby Roberson reviewed that the City submitted the application in August 2016 and has been awarded \$94,340 for the requested enhancements to our downtown. Mr. Roberson reviewed the allocation for the grant.

Arts of the Pamlico - \$10,000

Facade Grants - \$30,000

Streetscape, park improvements, Possible Wi-Fi Connection – \$54,340

Total \$ 94,340

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Finnerty, Council authorized the Mayor and the Administrative Services Director/CFO to execute the contract documents for the Rural Building Reuse grant for Downtown Revitalization and adopted the Grant Project Ordinance.

Councilmember Mercer said that before any work is performed on the southwest corner near Crab Park, the intersections should be squared off. Mr. Roberson stated this item would come back to City Council with plans and staff will have to go out for bids ~ it would be counter-productive without Council approval. Councilmember Pitt recommended striking “possible Wi-Fi” from the document and change to “Wi-Fi”. Mr. Roberson voiced the grant was submitted with that particular wording – the State and Council would have to amend the application. Mayor Hodges suggested rounding the intersection as opposed to squaring it off.

**A GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION
GRANT # 2017-054-1257-1534
CITY OF WASHINGTON, N.C.
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Washington, North Carolina, that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following grant project is hereby established:

Section 1. The project authorized is for the Rural Building Reuse Downtown Revitalization grant

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the project within the terms of the grant agreements.

Section 3. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

52-60-4930-4500	Downtown Improvements	\$94,340
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Section 4. The following revenue is anticipated to be available to complete this project:

54-60-3480-3300	State Grant Funds	\$94,340
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Section 5. The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Grant Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the grant agreements.

Section 6. Funds may be advanced by the General Fund for the purpose of making payments as due. Reimbursement requests should be made to the grant agencies in an orderly and timely manner.

Section 7. The Finance Director is directed to report, on a monthly basis, on the financial status of each project element in Section 3 and on the total grant revenues received or claimed.

Section 8. The Budget Officer is directed to include a detail analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this grant project in every budget submission made to the City Council.

Section 9. Copies of this grant project ordinance shall be furnished to the City Clerk, and to the Budget Officer, and to the Finance Director for direction in carrying out this project.

Section 10. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 11. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

This the 12th day of December, 2016.

ATTEST:

s/Cynthia S. Bennett
CITY CLERK

s/Jay MacDonald Hodges
MAYOR

NEW BUSINESS:

AUTHORIZE/ADOPT – MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE ENGINEERING UTILITY PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AGREEMENT FOR 15TH STREET WATER & SEWER UTILITY RELOCATION – NCDOT PROJECT U-5860 AND ADOPT THE CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE AND SUBSEQUENT PURCHASE ORDER

Councilmember Mercer expressed concerns with the explanation package of this particular item. It speaks to awarding a contract to Rivers for \$193,000 for engineering and in the agenda packet the estimate for actual construction of the project is approximately \$4 million. In looking at the NCDOT website when addressing this project, they are estimating that the construction or relocation of utility lines is \$760,000 ~ where is the other \$3 million coming from? Mr. Buck said NCDOT did a very rough estimate on relocating utilities on their website and it is not accurate. Rivers has walked the area to see what it would take to service the high and low side of 15th Street and this is the reason for the difference in NCDOT and Rivers estimates. Mr. Buck said the improvements are at no cost to the City of Washington. The Agreement says NCDOT picks up the entire cost for this project. Councilmember Mercer stated we heard 25+ people address Council on December 8th saying they are opposed to this project. He received several phone calls and no single positive remarks. Mr. Roberson stated he will present to Council in January a resolution for Council to adopt to proceed or not proceed with the project and then inform NCDOT of the action taken by Council. Mayor Pro tem Finnerty noted she had not received enough data regarding the number of crashes/damages/emergencies on 15th Street. Councilmember Pitt noted NCDOT had provided crash data.

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Finnerty, Council unanimously agreed to go on record opposing the 15th Street project in its present form and instruct the City Manager, to convey that opposition to NCDOT.

City Manager, Bobby Roberson voiced he will draft the letter to NCDOT letting them know the City is not interested in the 15th Street Improvement in current form.

ADOPT – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO LEASE OR RENT PROPERTY ~ WASHINGTON-BEAUFORT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR OR LESS

Mr. Roberson explained that Beaufort County has forwarded over for our consideration a proposed lease whereby the County owns 55% and the City owns 45% of 77.53 acres of property known as the Washington-Beaufort County Industrial Park, which the city and county finds it does not currently have a superior use for, at this time. The property under consideration is vacant and the lease amount is for \$9303.60 per year. The proposed lease will be between The City of Washington/Beaufort County and JOC Farms, LLC. (Briley and Family). Also, he noted minor corrections on lease that he and Mr. Holscher will correct. Councilmember Mercer discussed concern with the language regarding compensation for their crop loss if they have to abandoned the property? Councilmember Beeman inquired about the wording “approximately 77.53 acres” and felt it should be a firm number.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council adopted the resolution authorizing the City Manager to lease or rent property within the Washington Beaufort County Industrial Park for terms of one (1) year or less in the amount of \$9303.60.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO LEASE OR RENT CITY PROPERTY FOR TERMS OF ONE YEAR OR LESS

WHEREAS, the City of Washington ("City") jointly owns with the County of Beaufort ("County") a tract of land (45% City and 55% County) containing approximately 77.53 acres in the Washington Township, commonly known as the "Washington-Beaufort County Industrial Park" ("Property"), which Property the City and County finds it does not currently have a superior use for, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Washington therefore finds that its share of the Property is currently surplus to the City's needs and should be leased or rented for the financial gain of the City, and;

WHEREAS, one or more persons or entities have expressed interest in leasing or renting the City's share of the Property in order to cultivate and grow crops, and;

WHEREAS, the City desires to lease its share of said Property in an effort to reduce its need to maintain the Property and receive some financial gain from the Property, and;

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-272 authorizes the City of Washington to enter into leases of up to 10 years upon a resolution of the City of Washington adopted at a regular meeting, and further authorizes the City Council to grant authority to the City Manager to enter into leases or rental contracts for terms of one year or less without public notice, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Washington is convened in a regular meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, by the City Council of the City of Washington that: The City of Washington hereby authorized the City Manager to, in his discretion, negotiate and execute leases and rental contract for the City's share of the Property for terms of one year or less.

ADOPTED this the 12th day of December, 2016

ATTEST:

s/Cynthia S. Bennett
CITY CLERK

s/Jay MacDonald Hodges
MAYOR

**ADOPT – SPRINGS ROAD MOBILE HOME PARK WATER SYSTEM
CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE**

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS: The water system at the Springs Rd. Mobile Home Park is in need of reconfiguration. Engineering funds for this work were included in the Water Funds budget, 30-90-8180-0400 and are being transferred to the Capital Project. Funding for the construction is being transferred through available EDA grant funds remaining from the EDA Water and Sewer grant projects.

Councilmember Mercer discussed the usage of the remaining EDA grant funds. Mr. Buck stated he had to write letter to Asa Williams saying we would use the remaining funds for water improvements in Washington. Mr. Buck stated the first part of the project will come from the water side while the remaining can be moved from sewer to water.

Councilmember Mercer inquired if the water meters are located under trailers, were these not replaced with AMR meters? Mr. Buck stated “yes” the water main and meters are under trailers. This funding will eliminate the water mains and water services under trailers and place them beside the street. There is maintenance work that can’t be done due to their locations under mobile homes.

Councilmember Mercer said the owner should be partially responsible for the cost of the project. Mr. Buck agrees but stated when the city accepted and annexed this property we inherited the problems.

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council adopted the Capital Project Ordinance for the Springs Road Mobile Home Park Water System Improvements.

**A CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR
SPRINGS ROAD MOBILE HOME PARK WATER SYSTEM
CITY OF WASHINGTON, N.C.
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Washington, North Carolina, that, pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the following capital project is hereby established:

Section 1. The project authorized is for the engineering and construction work associated with reworking the water system associated with the Springs Rd. Mobile Home Park.

Section 2. The officers of this unit are hereby directed to proceed with the project within the terms of the development.

Section 3. The following amounts are appropriated for the project:

73-90-8000-0410	Engineering	\$ 40,000
73-90-8000-4500	Construction	<u>200,000</u>
	Total	\$240,000

Section 4. The following revenue is anticipated to be available to complete this project:

73-90-3490-0000	EDA Grant Transfer	\$200,000
73-90-3490-0001	Transfer from Water Fund	<u>40,000</u>
	Total	\$240,000

Section 5. The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy the requirements of the developer agreements.

Section 6. Funds may be advanced by the General Fund or Water Fund for the purpose of making payments as due.

Section 7. The Finance Director is directed to report, on a monthly basis, on the financial status of each project element in Section 3 and on the total capital project revenues received or claimed.

Section 8. The Budget Officer is directed to include a detail analysis of past and future costs and revenues on this capital project in every budget submission made to the City Council.

Section 9. Copies of this capital project ordinance shall be furnished to the City Clerk, and to the Budget Officer, and to the Finance Director for direction in carrying out this project.

Section 10. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 11. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

This the 12th day of December, 2016.

ATTEST:

s/Cynthia S. Bennett
CITY CLERK

s/Jay MacDonald Hodges
MAYOR

ADOPT – FY 2018 BUDGET SCHEDULE

Councilmember Mercer requested Council have an additional week to review the budget document.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council unanimously adopted the FY 2018 Budget Preparation and Adoption Schedule with the recommended changes (2 weeks for budget review by Council prior to workshops).

City Manager Roberson noted that we are moving in to the last year of the current CIP.

ANY OTHER ITEMS FROM CITY MANAGER:

UPDATE – FLOODING QUESTIONS AND IRON CREEK SUBDIVISION

- Linda Witchell – not interested in buyout or elevation program
- Carter Leary – eligible for buyout program
- Katie Mosher – interested in buyout program
- Charles Daniels - We have individuals who have built across our easements. Staff will be meeting with Charles Daniels (President of Iron Creek HOA) regarding moving fences and storage buildings off of our easement lines. Mr. Roberson will be in conversations with the Wooten Company regarding Iron Creek.

UPDATE – MINIMUM HOUSING COMPLAINTS:

JOHN TUNSTALL AND SHELIA SVELA

Mr. Roberson noted that John Tunstall and Shelia Svela came before Council regarding two abandoned houses in Macswoods. At that time, we did not have contact information for the property owners, we now have the needed information in order to notify the owners. Information will be coming back to Council regarding the route they want to take to bring the structures into compliance.

PROPOSAL – CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

Mr. Roberson explained this item actually came from Beaufort County Commissioner Gary Brinn and they are looking for a place to display the Charters of Freedom. Staff would like to suggest Veteran’s Park as a possible location for the display. Mr. Lewis(Charters of Freedom) will make a presentation to the Beaufort County Commissioner’s at their February meeting.

Councilmember Mercer inquired if they are requesting funding from the City? Mr. Roberson noted this would be addressed during the presentation to the County Commissioners in February. Councilmember Pitt felt this was a worthwhile project. Councilmember Mercer suggested the waterfront as alternate location, while Councilmember Beeman suggested Havens Gardens as an alternate location due to the number of students that visit this location as an educational opportunity.

PROPOSAL – NCDOT – SIDEWALK PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Mr. Roberson noted that due to previous Council action tonight regarding the 15th Street project, this item is being removed from the agenda.

REQUEST – BROWN LIBRARY – 415 WEST SECOND STREET (accepted as presented)

Mr. Roberson reviewed the request from Brown Library Board of Trustees to remove the structure located at 415 W. 2nd which is the former A&B Tax office. Mr. Roberson noted if there is no objection, he would ask staff to move forward with preparing the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Historic Preservation Commission. The request could be delayed 365 days. Mayor Pro tem Finnerty asked how could the brick structure be moved and Mr. Roberson noted the brick facade would have to be removed first. Mayor Pro tem Finnerty asked what would go in the location if the house is removed, would it be an empty lot. Mr. Roberson stated the plans are to expand the library for a children’s library. This expansion would be discussed during the budget process.



ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Councilmember Mercer referenced a letter he received from Jim Hackney on Summit Ave. regarding speeding. He asked for the report/recommendation from the Police Department be presented in January.

CLOSED SESSION: UNDER NCGS §143-318.11 (A) (3) ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND (A) (6) PERSONNEL and (A) (5) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council agreed to go into closed session at 6:40pm under NCGS§143-318.11 (A) (3) Attorney Client Privilege, (A) (6) Personnel and (A)(5) Acquisition of Property.

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Finnerty, Council agreed to come out of closed session at 7:40pm.

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Councilmember Mercer, Council directed the City Clerk to enter the following statement into the minutes.

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN SZABO SETTLEMENT FOR COUNCIL MINUTES

As required by North Carolina General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(3), and to the extent allowed by North Carolina General Statute § 160A-168, the City of Washington announces the terms of a settlement it has entered with Stephen Szabo who is a former employee and who was injured while working for the City. In accordance with the specific terms of the Agreement of Final Settlement and Release ("Agreement") approved by the North Carolina Industrial Commission, the City reached a settlement with Mr. Szabo. In conjunction with that settlement, the City received, among other things, a full release of any and all claims against the City, including but not limited to any and all claims under the North Carolina Workers' Compensation Act. The Agreement represents the settlement of a disputed matter and is not an admission of liability.

CITY MANAGER CONTRACT

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council voted to extend Bobby Roberson's contract as the Washington City Manager until December 31, 2018.

ADJOURN:

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm until Monday, January 9, 2017 at 5:30 pm, in the Council Chambers.

**Cynthia S. Bennett, MMC
City Clerk**