

The Washington City Council met in a regular session on Monday, June 12, 2017 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 Brooks delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council approved the minutes of May 22, 2017 as presented.

APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Mayor Hodges reviewed the requested amendments to the agenda:

- Add: Under Closed Session: NCGS 143-318.11 (A)(3) Attorney/Client Privilege, (A)(4) Economic Development and (A)(5) Property Acquisition

By motion of Mayor Pro tem Finnerty, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council approved the agenda as amended.

Presentation: Recipients of the Rena K. Terrell Award – Emily Rebert & Scott Campbell



Scott Campbell of Century 21 has graciously sponsored this event so that each winner received pewter cups for their hard work. *The Rena K. Terrell award is a public trust honor designed to celebrate those active in historic preservation. Mrs. Rena K. Terrell, the award's namesake, was one of the area's most active historic preservation promoters. She was a founding member of the Historic Preservation Commission, a member of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the City's official representative on the Board of Directors of the Historic Albemarle Tour. These awards are made in Rena's memory since she was devoted to preserving our historic resources and assets.*

2017 held three recognizing categories:

Commercial Property: *Tomp Litchfield Jr.*

Residential Property: *Vann and Colleen Knight*

Stewardship: *Alan Mobley*

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- A. Approve – Library Trust Budget Ordinance Amendment

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET ORDINANCE
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, N.C.
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Washington, North Carolina:

Section 1. That the Estimated Revenues in the Library Trust Fund be increased in the amount of \$100 in the account Interest Earned, account number 11-40-3831-0000.

Section 2. That account number 11-40-6300-9200, Admin Charges to General Fund portion of the Library Trust Fund appropriations budget be increased in the amount of \$100 for the increase in interest earned on the Trust investment.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this the 12th day of June, 2017.

ATTEST:

**s/Cynthia S. Bennett
CITY CLERK**

**s/Jay MacDonald Hodges
MAYOR**

B. Declare Surplus/Authorize – Electronic Auction of Vehicles through GovDeals

Vehicle #	Make/Model	Department	Serial Number	Odometer Reading
601	2008 Ford F150 XL Triton	Electric	1FTRX12W18FC22811	132,280
480	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Regular Cab	Sanitation	1GCEC14VX6E204633	108,614

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

MEMO – BUDGET TRANSFERS

	Department	Account Number	Object Classification	Amount
FROM:	MISC. NON-DEPARTMENTAL	10-00-4400	0200	2,500.00
TO:	FINANCE	10-00-4130	0200	2,500.00

For the purpose of: Balancing over spent accounts.

	Department	Account Number	Object Classification	Amount
FROM:	STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS	10-30-5710	0200 0201 0500	6,000.00 2,000.00 500.00
TO:	MUNICIPAL BUILDING	10-00-4260	0200	8,500.00

For the purpose of: Balancing over spent accounts. Unexpected retirements – 2 payouts.

	Department	Account Number	Object Classification	Amount
FROM:	MISC. NON-DEPARTMENTAL	10-00-4400	0200	5,000.00
TO:	CITY MANAGER	10-00-4120	0200	5,000.00

For the purpose of: Balancing over spent accounts.

	Department	Account Number	Object Classification	Amount
FROM:	POWER LINE CONST.	35-90-8390	0200 0500 0600 0700 0701 0704	38,000.00 7,400.00 16,500.00 5,800.00 2,000.00 120.00
TO:	POWER LINE MAINT.	35-90-8380	0200 0500 0600 0601 0700 0701	38,500.00 6,100.00 12,000.00 4,405.00 7,415.00 1,400.00

For the purpose of: Balancing over spent accounts.

	Department	Account Number	Object Classification	Amount
FROM:	MISC. NON-DEPARTMENTAL	10-00-4400	0200	1,700.00
TO:	PUBLIC WORKS DIR.	10-30-4700	0200	1,700.00

For the purpose of: Balancing over spent accounts.

	Department	Account Number	Object Classification	Amount
FROM:	INSPECTIONS	10-10-4350	4500	2,180.00
TO:	PLANNING	10-10-4910	0200	2,180.00

For the purpose of: Balancing over spent accounts.

Councilmember Mercer asked for clarification on the budget transfers. Matt Rauschenbach, Finance Director noted staff did estimates on payroll through the end of the budget year. He noted that we budget for the salary at that time and we do not budget for merit/job maturity increases – hence the need for the transfers. There are also three payrolls in June.

Councilmember Mercer also discussed the salaries in the Electric Department noting he thought those salaries were supposedly split 50% to powerline maintenance and 50% to powerline

construction. The expenditures to date are substantially higher to powerline maintenance. Mr. Rauschenbach explained each payroll period is charged depending on if they are working on powerline construction or powerline maintenance – it depends on the project.

After the explanation, the memos were accepted as presented.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES:

HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL – accepted as presented

Human Relations Council (HRC) report for the month of May

Monday, June 12, 2017 City Council Meeting

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*

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Update & Discussion – “From a Renter to an Owner” Fair Housing Event: Chairperson Wright reviewed the upcoming Fair Housing event. She requested the Board to exert all efforts in pursuing this event, making it better and more successful than in previous years. The Board addressed ways to advertise the event with the event being held on May 23, 2017 at the Civic Center ~ 6:30PM-8:00PM.

Board member Lawrence suggested she could contact WITN-TV if Council Liaison Pitt would be available to make a scheduled appearance at 5:45AM any morning before the 23rd. Councilperson Pitt voiced he would attend if the meeting can be scheduled.

Items addressed:

- *Presenters*
- *Menu*
- *Set-up & Programs*

Review – Design and Construction Training Class: Board member Horton reviewed the free Design and Construction training class he attended in Wilmington, NC at the Wilmington Library (Masonboro Room) on April 26, 2017 sponsored by NC Human Relations Commission. HUD Design and Construction manuals were distributed to the training participants. He stated the class was very informative and equipped him on new construction rules and regulations and how to design homes for special needs individuals (wheelchair, etc.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Vice-chair – Chairperson Wright requested nominations. By motion of Board member Griffin, seconded by Board member Lawrence, HRC Board appointed Glenwood Horton as Vice-chair to the Human Relations Council, to fill the unexpired term of former Board member Hawn.

OTHER BUSINESS:

FYI – All FYI items and reminders were discussed inclusive of the April 11, 2017 report submitted to City Council and the financial report.

Discussion – Board member Lodge inquired about a Retirement Community in Washington and was informed there are at least three (3) establishments located here for ages 55 and older.

Review – Expiring terms and vacant positions for FY - 2017/2018.

OPEN DISCUSSION: NONE

APPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS – VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

A. Planning Board- (Larry Beeman – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council re-appointed Howell Miller to the Planning Board, term to expire June 30, 2020.

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council re-appointed Jane Allgood to the Planning Board, term to expire June 30, 2020.

B. Alternate Member - Board of Adjustment - (Richard Brooks – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council re-appointed Andy Olsen as an Alternate Member to the Board of Adjustment, term to expire June 30, 2020.

C. Enlarged Board of Adjustment - (Richard Brooks – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council re-appointed Steve Fuchs to the Enlarged Board of Adjustment, term to expire June 30, 2020.

D. Board of Library Trustees – (William Pitt – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council re-appointed Leesa Payton Jones to the Board of Library Trustees, term to expire June 30, 2020. **Effective March 2017 new appointments/re-appointments will be three-year terms.*

E. Recreation Advisory Committee – (Richard Brooks – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council re-appointed Will Tyson (inside) to the Recreation Advisory Committee, term to expire June 30, 2020.

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council re-appointed Neal Dixon (outside) to the Recreation Advisory Committee, term to expire June 30, 2020.

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council re-appointed Meredith Loughlin (inside) to the Recreation Advisory Committee, term to expire June 30, 2020.

F. Historic Preservation Commission – (Virginia Finnerty –Liaison)

Continued until June 26, 2017

G. Human Relations Council – (William Pitt – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, council re-appointed Pat Griffin to the Human Relations Council, term to expire June 30, 2020.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, council re-appointed Bonita Wright to the Human Relations Council, term to expire June 30, 2020.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, council appointed Olivia Taylor to the Human Relations Council to fill the expiring term of Stephanie Wilson, term to expire June 30, 2020.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council appointed Mary Ellen Tyrrell to the Human Relations Council to fill a vacant term, term to expire June 30, 2020.

H. Animal Control Appeals Board – (Doug Mercer – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council re-appointed Phyllis Schulte to the Animal Control Appeals Board, term to expire June 30, 2020.

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council appointed Crystal Watts to the Animal Control Appeals Board to fill the expiring term of Tucker Talley, term to expire June 30, 2020.

I. Washington Electric Utilities Advisory Board – (Larry Beeman – Liaison)

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council re-appointed Pat Griffin (inside) to the Washington Electric Utilities Advisory Commission, term to expire June 30, 2020.

J. Washington Housing Authority – (Mayor Hodges makes appointments)

Mayor Hodges re-appointed Rudy Burns to the Washington Housing Authority, term to expire June 30, 2022.

Mayor Hodges re-appointed Donald Sadler to the Washington Housing Authority, term to expire June 30, 2022.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ANY OTHER ITEMS FROM CITY MANAGER: NONE

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:
NONE**

RECESS:

By motion of Councilmember Brooks, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council recessed the meeting at 5:40pm until 5:55pm.

MEETING SCHEDULE

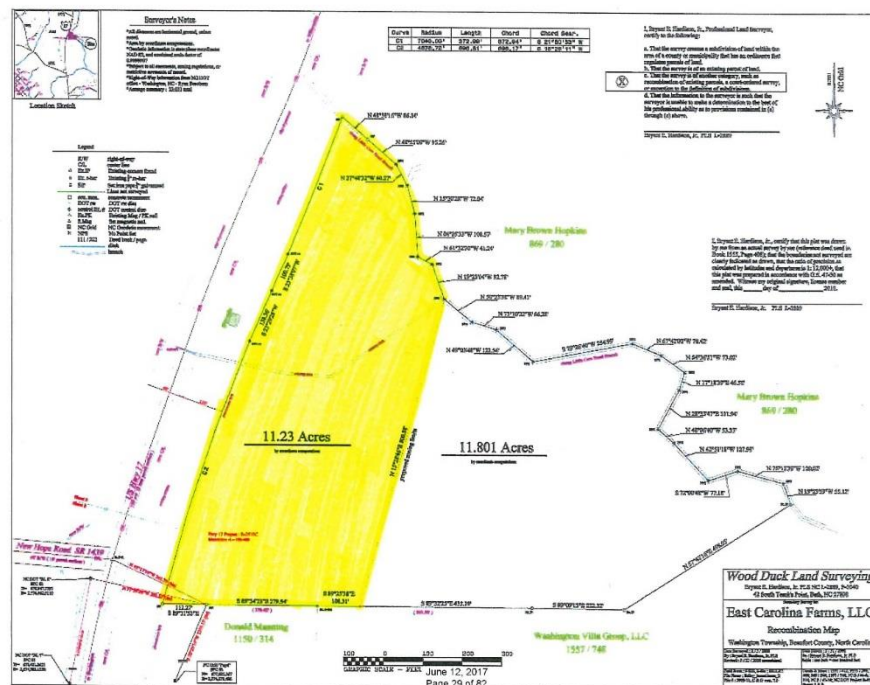
Councilmember Mercer discussed the history of holding two monthly Council meetings. He recommended having one meeting in July and one meeting in August being the most recent meetings have been very short.

By motion of Councilmember Mercer, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council agreed to hold only one meeting in July and one meeting in August. (Dates of meetings will be July 10th and August 14th.)

PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING - 6:00PM:

ACCEPT – RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD TO APPROVE THE REZONING REQUEST OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON US HWY 17 N CONSISTING OF 11.23 ACRES OF VACANT PROPERTY FROM O & I (OFFICE & INSTITUTIONAL) TO B-2 (BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL) AND ADOPT ASSOCIATED RESOLUTION

John Rodman, Community & Cultural Services Director explained a request has been made by Jason Briley to rezone 11.23 acres of land on US Hwy 17 N east of its intersection with New Hope Road. The property is identified by the Beaufort County Tax Office as parcel # 5677-59-2190 and is currently zoned O&I (Office & Institutional). The proposed zoning requested is for B-2 (Business). The Rezoning request is consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Future Land Use Map. The Planning Board voted to recommend to City Council to approve the rezoning request.



Mayor Hodges opened the public hearing.

Jason Briley came forward and explained his request to Council. Mayor Hodges inquired as to the purpose for the zoning change. Mr. Briley noted he may want to construct a business to sell utility trailers and he could not do that in the current zoning designation. Councilmember Brooks asked for clarification on the location of the property in question.

There being no further comments, Mayor Hodges closed the public hearing.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council accepted the recommendation of the Planning Board to approve the rezoning request of the property located on US Hwy 17 N containing 11.23 acres, from O&I (Office & Institutional) to B-2 (Business/Commercial).

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON ADOPTING THE PLAN
CONSISTENCY REVIEW STATEMENT FOR A PROPOSED ZONING MAP
AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, The City of Washington received a request to rezone 11.23 acres of land on US Hwy 17 N east of its intersection with New Hope Road from O&I (Office & Institutional) to B-2 (Business). The property is identified by the Beaufort County Tax Office as parcel # 5677-59-2190.

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2006, North Carolina General Statute 160A-383 requires that "prior to adopting or rejecting any zoning amendment" each local governing board "shall adopt a statement describing whether its action is consistent with an adopted comprehensive land use plan and explaining why the board considers the action taken to be reasonable and in the public interest";

WHEREAS, this zoning request was duly advertised and was the subject of a public hearing by the Council of the City of Washington on June 12, 2017;

WHEREAS, the Council for the City of Washington has considered the application to amend the Zoning Map and finds that the amendment is warranted, in order to achieve the purposes of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Future Land Use Map;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Washington, North Carolina that, the Plan Consistency Review Statement presented by the Planning Board be adopted and as a result, the adoption of the proposed rezoning of the subject parcel be approved. Adopted this 12th day of June 2017.

ATTEST:
s/Cynthia S. Bennett
CITY CLERK

s/Jay MacDonald Hodges
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING – OTHER – 6:00PM:

**ADOPT – ORDINANCE TO CONDEMN AS UNSAFE THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT
610 WEST 10TH STREET AND AWARD THE DEMOLITION CONTRACT**

Background and Findings: The governing body of the City may adopt and enforce ordinances relating to residential buildings or structures that fail to meet minimum standards of maintenance, sanitation, and safety. The minimum standards address conditions that are dangerous and injurious to public health, safety and welfare and identify circumstances under which a public necessity exists for the repair, closing or demolition of such buildings or structures.

If after a notice and hearing the Code Official determines that the property has not been properly maintained and failed to meet minimum standards an order is issued to require the owner to demolish and remove the building or structure.

John Rodman, Community & Cultural Services Director reviewed the request with Council. Approximately three years ago, Police and Fire Services Director, Stacy Drakeford asked for the structure to be secured as it was becoming a location of suspicious activity. The property owner was notified that they needed to secure (board up) the house. The owner did not respond to the request and the City secured the house. It has been boarded up and vacant for over 2 ½ years. The property owner did not respond to any of the complaints or hearings.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Complaint: 12/07/16

Notice of Hearing: 12/07/16

Hearing: 12/28/16

Order to Correct: 12/30/16

Time expired: 02/28/17

Notice of Council hearing: 06/12/17

Councilmember Brooks discussed the suspicious activity in this area.

Mayor Hodges opened the public hearing.

Dot Moate expressed a few comments. She noted her comments were not directed to the property in question, but rather to several structures on Market Street, that needs some attention. She said the City should be able to do something to encourage the property owners to keep the properties updated and maintained. Mayor Hodges discussed the list of properties the City is currently addressing.

There being no further comments, Mayor Hodges closed the public hearing.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council adopted the ordinance condemning the structure located at 610 West 10th Street as unsafe and to demolish and remove the structure.

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council awarded the demolition contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Dudley Landscaping, in the amount of three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400).

**AN ORDINANCE FINDING THAT THE BUILDING DESCRIBED HEREIN IN THE CITY
OF WASHINGTON IS CONDEMNED AS UNSAFE AND DIRECTING
THAT IT BE DEMOLISHED**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Washington finds that the structure having an address of 610 West 10th Street, Washington, North Carolina and being owned by Louis F. Sneed and Spouse, Alice Sneed and Spouse, and any unknown heirs of Fannie Sneed is condemned as, among other things, unsafe pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 160A-426 and that all applicable statutory provisions have been complied with as a condition of the adoption of this Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the structure located on said property should be demolished and removed as directed by the Senior Building Official for, among other things, the reasons stated by the Senior Building Official in his December 30, 2016 Order to Remedy Defective Condition and Findings of Fact that was served on the property owner(s).

WHEREAS, the owner(s) of the structure have been given a reasonable opportunity to bring the structure into compliance with the applicable standards of the City Code as well as State statute in accordance with North Carolina General Statute § 160A-426 as well as pursuant to the Order issued by the Senior Building Official in said Notice of Decision.

WHEREAS, said owner (s) have failed to comply with said Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Washington as follows.

- Section 1.** The Senior Building Official is hereby authorized and directed to proceed to demolish and remove the above described structure located at 610 West 10th Street in accordance with applicable provisions of the City Code and North Carolina General Statute § 160A-426 *et seq.*
- Section 2.** The cost of the demolition and removal of the structure shall constitute a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred as provided in North Carolina General Statute § 160A-432.
- Section 3.** This Ordinance shall be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Beaufort County, North Carolina.

This Ordinance shall become effective on this date of adoption June 12, 2017.

ATTEST:

s/Cynthia S. Bennett
CITY CLERK

s/Jay MacDonald Hodges
MAYOR

CLOSED SESSION: UNDER NCGS §143-318.11 (A)(3) ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE, (A)(4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND (A)(5) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council agreed to go into closed session at 6:20pm under NCGS§143-318.11 (A)(3) Attorney/Client Privilege, (A)(4) Economic Development and (A)(5) Acquisition of Property.

By motion of Councilmember Beeman, seconded by Councilmember Brooks, Council agreed to come out of closed session at 6:55pm.

ADJOURN:

By motion of Councilmember Pitt, seconded by Councilmember Beeman, Council adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm until Monday, June 26, 2017 at 5:30pm, in the Council Chambers.

Cynthia S. Bennett, MMC
City Clerk