



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

Present: Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem
Ernest C. Bobbitt)
Suetta S. Scarbrough)
Wayne Smith)

Council Members

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager
Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney
Traci Storey, City Clerk
Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director
Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Bobby Martin, Police Chief
Joe Hatch, Planning & Development
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

Absent: Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor
Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked Council members about any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening.

There being no conflicts, a motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for August 20, 2019 as presented.

Special Recognitions

Police Department

Chief Martin stated he was happy for Frankie Griffin that recently retired from the Roanoke Rapids Police Department on July 31st. Frankie has spent a majority of his adult life serving the citizens of Roanoke Rapids. He is a graduate of Roanoke Rapids High School. In August 1990, he started with the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department where he was a firefighter for 3 years. He was promoted to Engineer and remained in that capacity for 6 years. He was then promoted to Lieutenant and remained Lieutenant for 3 years. Frankie then decided to join the Roanoke Rapids Police Department in August 2002. He was a Patrolman for 3 years and was promoted to Investigator in 2005. He worked Narcotics for 2 years and then returned to Investigator again until December 2015 when he became the Evidence Technician until his retirement date. Frankie has been a dedicated servant to the City of Roanoke Rapids and its citizens and will be missed. Chief Martin stated they understand that when you give all of yourself for so long, there comes a time when you need to step back and take a break. Frankie has earned that right. Chief Martin left Frankie with these words from the book of Matthew: "Well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful with a few things I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Good luck and God speed. He asked Mr. Griffin to come forward. He asked City Council to consider a motion to award Mr. Griffin his service side arm and badge. He noted he had taken care of the \$1.00 fee.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to award Officer Frankie Griffin his service side arm and badge for and in consideration of the sum of One and No/100 Dollars (\$1.00) received from him and upon his securing a permit as required by NCGS 14-402.

Chief Martin presented Mr. Griffin with a plaque, his service side arm and badge.

Fire Department

Ms. Helen Reed could not attend. Recognition will be postponed until a later meeting date.

Unscheduled Public Comment

Mike Hedgepeth

Mr. Hedgepeth of Franklin Street said the reason for speaking tonight is about something that occurred several years ago. He lives at the corner of Franklin and

Preston Street across the street from Hilltop Trailer Court. It has been there since he was a small child. Several years ago, the neighborhood was having a lot of problems down there and they were told that if one of those trailers was pulled out that another trailer could not be pulled back in unless it was the same year make or a previous year. For example, if a model trailer was 1968 then a trailer from 1968 and down – 1967, 1966, 1965 etc. could be pulled in. Anything above 1968, 1969, 1970 etc. could not be pulled in. In February of 2019 after about a 10 year absence when the trailer was pulled out, another one was pulled in. He waited to see what was going to happen. Electricity has been hooked up to it, but no one has moved in yet. He immediately made a phone call and the individual said they would look in to it, which they did.

Mr. Hedgepeth stated now he was going to tell them why he was here. In the mid-1990s and he believed it was 1995, it was so bad in his section of town at that time and the results of it came from that trailer court. It was so bad that the whole community/neighborhood called a home town meeting. They met in his living room 3 or 4 times. He read the list of the people that met: Mayor Allan Welch, City Manager Charles Archer, City Councilman Ed Deese, Councilman David King and Police Chief Drewery Beale who was the former Mayor.

He said at that time there was so much problem going on they asked if there was anything that could be done about it. They were told no because trailer courts in Roanoke Rapids had been grandfathered in. As a result of them being grandfathered in there was nothing that could be done to have that particular trailer court closed. But there was something on the books that he just stated about the age of the trailers – that it could not be replaced. That is the concern he has. The trailer has still been sitting there. He would like it researched again fully. Because if this was the truth back in the mid-1990s and he assumes it was because of the list of people were very reputable people. Two of them were former Mayors, two former City Councilmen and one former City Manager. He believed at that time Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee was also on the City Council. He again asked for it to be fully investigated by the City or whoever needs to investigate it. He wants to know the results. First of all, he wants to be shown in writing about the grandfather clause. He has never been shown that; he accepted it at face value because of the list of men. A lot of the people that came with him 20 years ago have passed away. He said we talk about keeping a clean town and streets so let's talk about clean neighborhoods.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked Mr. Hedgepeth to see the City Manager at some point in the future and he can direct you on how to look into the matter.

Approval of Council Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve the July 16, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as drafted.

City Council Appointments

Beautification Committee

City Clerk Storey said the terms for Kathy White on the Beautification Committee expired on August 9, 2019. Ms. White has expressed interest in serving another term by submitting a volunteer application for your review and consideration, which was enclosed in your packets. She noted that a ballot vote was taken earlier and Ms. White received a unanimous vote.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to reappoint Kathy White to the Beautification Committee.

New Business

Consideration of Resolution Approving Surplus Items (Resolution No. 2019.07)

Public Works Director Chalker presented the following resolution and list of items for Council to consider declaring as surplus and authorize to sale by electronic auction:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019.07
Resolution Approving Surplus Items
In accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c) – Electronic Auction

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the City; and

WHEREAS, the following items have been identified as being surplus to the needs of the City:

Vehicle #	Description	Serial/Vin #
203	2004 Dodge Durango (bad engine)	1D4HD58D64F177153
212	2003 Chevy Duramax	1GBC4E1193F511041
217	1987 Chevy FYD Miller Body Dump Truck	1GBHR34K5H5150714
607	2001 Red Ford Crown Vic	2FAFP7W41X174910
P-167	2006 Ford Crown Vic	2FAPHP71W36X119039
	Cub Cadet Zero Turn Mower	
298	Mosquito Fogger	
299	Mosquito Fogger	
	Lot of Phones	

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Rapids City Council, at a Regular Meeting on December 13, 2011, adopted Resolution No. 2011.25 authorizing the use of electronic auction services to dispose of surplus property; and

WHEREAS, the necessary agreements with GovDeals, Inc. are in place to utilize the company's electronic auction service to dispose of surplus items;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Roanoke Rapids City Council hereby declares the foregoing list of property to be surplus to the needs of the City, and authorizes disposal of these items by electronic auction (specifically by website: www.govdeals.com) in accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c).

ADOPTED this 20th day of August, 2019.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019.07 to officially declare the items listed as surplus and authorize the sale by electronic auction.

Consideration of Traffic Code Amendment (Ordinance No. 2019.05)

Police Chief Martin presented the following Traffic Amendment/Ordinance No. 2019.05:

TRAFFIC AMENDMENT
ORDINANCE NO. 2019.05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TRAFFIC CODE OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA that:

SECTION 1. The Roanoke Rapids Traffic Code is amended to install "No Parking This Side of Street" on Olde Town Rd. exiting Olde Town Apartments. G.S. 20-162(a), City Ordinance 72.10

SECTION 2. The Roanoke Rapids Traffic Code is amended to install "No Parking" signs on Downs Brook in front of 107 Downs Brook and 115 Downs Brook on the West side of the St. G.S. 20-162(a), City Ordinance 72.10

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon the installation of the appropriate signage.

Councilman Smith asked where Olde Town Road was located. Chief Martin replied it was behind Pope Funeral Home off of Jesslyn Drive. There are apartments behind Pope Funeral Home and the residents have reported tractor trailers parking on each side of the entrance to the apartment complex. When they try to exit they cannot see cars travelling on that road. The senior citizens there are concerned there will be some collisions as a result. Chief Martin stated he and Doug Love with Public Works took a look at it and it could absolutely be a traffic hazard with those tractor trailers there. They are proposing putting the signs on the side where they are blocking the view in order to have a safe exit and entrance to the apartment complex.

Councilman Smith stated it was his understanding that there was already a city ordinance that no transfer trucks can be parked on the City streets in Roanoke Rapids. Chief Martin replied that was correct. Councilman Smith asked if that was correct, then why haven't we made them move the trucks. Chief Martin said he had not seen the trucks there and the officers have been made aware of it. He said the residents in the area were asking for assistance from the Police Department. Officers have been posted in the area which may be deterring the trucks from parking there. Councilman Smith said the trucks would probably just park on the other side of the street. Chief Martin replied then they will cite them there as well; either way they will be issued a citation.

Councilman Smith asked why they were just putting no parking signs in front of 107 and 115 Downs Brook Street. Chief Martin replied when you go in, it is in a curve and it is a blind curve when coming out. They have opened up a space there where people are parking and going on property to go fishing. The residents cannot pull out of their driveways effectively or safely because the cars are lining all the way down the street. This would make a space there so the cars will park further back so the residents can get out of their driveways safely and it keeps people from blocking both sides of the road so they can't see coming through the curve.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt Traffic Code Amendment/Ordinance No. 2019.05.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer reported the City Administration continues to take steps in helping to improve the community we live in. Two recent examples are the Chaloner Park restoration project and the Fire Department's Fire Safety Fair. Another upcoming event is the annual Christmas Parade organized by our Parks and Recreation Department.

He stated these events are examples of how we try to improve the livability of Roanoke Rapids. While we are nowhere near as affluent as some of the other cities around the state, we strive to use our limited resources to make our City as desirable a place to live as possible.

He said other City Departments do their part to improve our community. The Police Department commits many hours of time and effort for their Christmas Shopping with the Kids activity for underprivileged children. The Library put on many different programs for young and old alike. The Jo Story Senior Center is awarded a Center of Excellence designation every year for their commitment to senior citizen activity programming, facility use and maintenance, and focus on the well-being of our senior citizens. Even the refuse crews go out of their way to be friendly to everyone on their route and are probably the most popular employees in the Public Works Department. Mayor Doughtie and I have volunteered to be practice job interviewers for the high school senior students going through the school's interview preparation class.

City Manager Scherer said there are many other examples I could cite here, but my point is that while the City Administration accomplishes activities that help make Roanoke Rapids a better place to live, we cannot do it alone. We need more citizens to consider volunteering their time and talents for all the local groups and activities focused on making the City better each day. The City has boards and committees that do important work but lack people wanting to be on them. There are charitable organizations who could do so much more to make Roanoke Rapids a great place to live if they only had some committed volunteers to help with the work. I know we live in a busy world with its problems and woes, but what a better community we could live in with just a small commitment by everyone to provide their time and talents to make Roanoke Rapids a place people want to come to, instead of leaving the first chance they get.

Finance Director's Report

Finance Director Etheridge gave the following financial report for the month ending July 31, 2019. General Fund year to date receipts totaled \$54,763. The percentage of actual monies collected of adopted budgeted figures total 0.3%. General Fund year to date expenditures totaled \$1,410,950. The percentage of actual monies expended of adopted budgeted figures total 8.4%. After the month of July, 8.34% of the budget year has been completed. As a result, the year to date expenditures exceeded revenues by (\$1,356,187.) She noted that prior year this number was (\$1.4M). She said they expect to see this in July until the City sees substantial ad valorem revenue in September.

She stated the trend continues in July with expenditures well exceeding revenues at the beginning of the fiscal year. July is historically the City's lowest revenue month, but a month with high expenditure requirements. Some of the mandatory expenditure obligations made during this month are listed below.

Annual Insurance Services Liability/WC	\$333,053
Employee One-Time Bonus Payments	\$98,700
Energy Costs (Higher Usage Month)	\$41,316
Contributions and Dues	\$35,320
Annual Software Maintenance Contracts	\$25,898

She said year-end close is underway as Finance prepares for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 audit. The auditors will be on site the week of August 26th, 2019. During this time, Greg Redman and his team will be performing field work standards as required by NCGS 159-34.

Finance Director Etheridge said the Powell Bill Certified Expenditures report was completed and submitted to the NC Department of Transportation on July 31, 2019.

She reported in July, Finance staff processed and paid employee bonuses for this fiscal year as approved per the budget ordinance. We thank Council for considering and approving this benefit for City employees.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if the City received a certain percentage of Occupancy Tax from Halifax County Tourism. Finance Director Etheridge replied that was correct. Councilwoman Scarbrough also asked if the City requests it as we need it or do we get it in a lump sum of what is owed each year. Finance Director explained Halifax County Tourism builds it into their budget based on the Occupancy Tax

proceeds they receive from the City. City Manager Scherer added the City collects the tax and gives it to them. Finance Director Etheridge said the City collects the proceeds city-wide and sends it to them for tourism projects on a quarterly basis. Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if the City keeps any of the Occupancy Tax the City collects or does it all go to Halifax County Tourism. Finance Director Etheridge said it all goes to Halifax County Tourism. City Manager Scherer said the City provides Halifax County Tourism the revenue and they develop a budget for the City for tourism expenditures. Councilwoman Scarbrough asked isn't it by law the City gets a percentage. City Manager Scherer said that same percentage that the City gives them is to be turned around and spent on tourism activities and promotions for the City. That is why the City requests funds, for example to build a new restroom/concession building at Ledgerwood or the way-finding signage. They pay for those activities that help promote tourism and things of that nature. It comes back in things the City asks for or things they use it for such as advertising and billboards. The City submits our requests to them every year during their budget preparation.

Councilman Smith asked if the City met its budget obligations as of June 30, 2019. Finance Director Etheridge replied they were still processing final entries before the auditor comes next week and that will be determined as he starts looking at the files.

Departmental Reports

Human Resources

Human Resources Manager Kearney presented the July report. She reported at the present time the City is advertising for a Recreation Program Supervisor at the Aquatic Center, a Police Officer and an Administrative Support Assistant in the Planning Department which is a new position. During the month of July the department received 24 applications, hired 3 part-time employees and 4 full-time employees.

Councilman Smith asked why the City needed a supervisor in the Aquatic Center. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon replied that was a key position in the department. They oversee not only the Aquatic Center but also the outdoor pool. They manage all the lifeguards and classes the City offers. They maintain the Red Cross certifications that allow the City to instruct kids and to have swim lessons there. They also train the lifeguards. They are open a lot of hours during the week so someone is needed to be there to manage things, greet people, handle money, make deposits and handle payroll. Councilman Smith asked why they were asking for two positions for Supervisor. Human Resources Manager Kearney clarified that what he was looking at was the number of applications the department had received for that position.

Police

Police Chief Martin presented the department's July report. He announced the department conducted a saturated patrol in the city limits of Roanoke Rapids on August 16, 2019. They had a lot of success. The reason for this saturated patrol is because it was long overdue and they were trying to get a grip on the criminal activity that has been occurring within the city, especially with the drug opioid epidemic the City has. And try to let the bad guys know the Police Department is out and they were going to keep coming at them. This will be on-going for several months. Some of the stats from this patrol during a 4 hour period:

- 48 citations issued
- 56 misdemeanor charges
- 1 felony drug arrest
- 3 misdemeanor drug arrests
- Seized cocaine and marijuana
- Seized 3 jammers which are used at the gaming businesses
- Arrested a wanted subject out of Durham, NC
- Wrote approximately \$500 in City Ordinances (Fines, speeding, etc.)
- Served 10 subpoenas

Chief Martin said when he was first employed with the Roanoke Rapids Police Department this type of patrol occurred on a regular basis. He and City Manager Scherer had a long conversation and he felt this would be a good thing to bring back. He agreed with him and put it in the hands of the officers with the Narcotics Division along with the P.A.C.E. Team, Detectives and Patrol Squads. They set up a great program that night, it was successful and they hope to continue this periodically. He stated they will not be doing it at the same time; if they told everyone when they would be doing it, they would be prepared for it. They need to be doing right all the time.

He reported the department's radar trailer has been shipped and they should be getting it soon. Once it arrives, they will be seeing it out on the streets in areas they have trouble with speeding. Also, they have had some issues with the tractor trailers and log trucks coming down Roanoke Avenue at a high rate of speed. In talking with Public Works Director Chalker, he was out working and saw some near misses. Chief Martin said he contacted the DMV Motor Carrier Division and they will start seeing a lot of State Troopers along Roanoke Avenue in addition to our Police Officers. They are going to start deterring these tractor trailers coming through the city limits at a high rate of speed.

Councilman Smith stated to keep it up.

Planning & Development

Joe Hatch gave the report in absence of Planning & Development Director Lasky. He reported the Planning Board met on July 18, 2019 to hear a rezoning request for properties at 205 and 209 Mullen Drive (behind Walmart) to rezone from Residential to B-4 Commercial. He said City Council would be holding a Public Hearing for that request at the September 3, 2019 meeting.

He said the department had several developments that were coming to the conclusion of their construction. The biggest one is Rooney Ridge Apartments. They will be paving their parking lot in the middle of September and are expecting to have it ready for occupancy in November. They are now taking applications for tenants so probably by the end of this year it will be full of tenants. There is a commercial building with four storefronts on Premier Blvd. that is under construction now. They are within a month or so of having some of those spaces occupied. They should also be paving the parking lot soon. The three storefronts consist of a furniture store, sandwich shop and a hair salon. The fourth storefront is unknown at this time. It was proposed as a restaurant but it could possibly be something other than a restaurant. Another construction project that has been completed is some self-storage units on Becker Drive. The demolition of Hardee's on Julian Allsbrook will get started in about a month or so. They will demolish the existing building and rebuild a slightly smaller square foot building. It will take approximately 2-3 months so by the end of this year that project should be completed. Plans for a small 3,000 square foot office building for Roseburg Forestry on Hwy. 125 is under review and is just about complete. They will start with ground work in in the next week or two and construction will be underway a couple of weeks. That project should be complete by the end of the winter or early spring. The company bought the paper mill and purchased a number of properties when they bought the mill.

Mr. Hatch stated it has been slow this summer as far as new businesses and permit requests for new construction. He hopes this was just a summer slowdown and not something that will continue the rest of the year.

City Manager Scherer informed City Council that Building Inspector Brian Duhadaway's father passed away a few days ago and the services will be held tomorrow. He asked to keep him in their prayers.

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon presented the report of July. He thanked everyone for coming out on Saturday and supporting the Grand Opening of Chaloner Park. It was a successful day and there were a lot of people who attended. There were a lot of kids there to participate in the activities they had after the Grand Opening.

First Baptist Church was there giving out school supplies. He thanked the media for being there to cover the event. They are now in full operational mode at Chaloner. It has been a busy week so far and they have had a lot of kids at the splash pad, playground and basketball court. When they opened up on Monday morning there were about 50 kids there at Chaloner Recreation Center.

He has received several complaints recently about a large group of 4-wheelers and dirt bikes on the Canal Trail. He and Chief Martin have discussed this. They go through this every so often. This group seems to be a larger group. They are putting together a plan and believes Chief Martin will get this taken care of. It will not be an easy task because there are numerous places for them to get off the trail. This makes it difficult to pull the 4-wheelers and dirt bikes over.

He announced the TJ Davis pool is closed for the summer. It was another successful season and was well attended. The Greater Joy Church (Community for Unity Festival) will be held at TJ Davis on Saturday, September 7, 2019. This church is from Rocky Mount and works with the Lions Club to give free eye examines, they bring a dental bus in, provide medicines for families and give food away. It is a large event. Take A Child Outside (T.A.C.O.) week starts September 24, 2019. He will have flyers ready for that event by the end of the week.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated that Greater Joy has a church across from the movie theater on 10th Street. He also thanked everyone for their support to get Chaloner Recreation Center/Park open again. It is a beautiful facility and is well attended. He believes it is getting back to its original state of usage. He thanked Council, City Administration and all that had anything to do with this project. The community has nothing but praise for that.

Public Works

Public Works Director Chalker presented the report for the month of July. He reported their Durapatch process and truck are quite a busy operation. They are well over 500 patches/potholes repaired in city just from this truck. They had to repair some cuts with traditional hot patch asphalt. The new patch truck is really turning some things around for the department and they are getting better with the process every day.

He stated July was one of the hottest months on record especially here in Roanoke Rapids. All the hours listed on this report, most of the work was done outside. Our employees give everything they have and he was proud of them to work and hold up in this heat. Imagine working on the back of the trash truck, in addition to the smell, the temperature is rough.

Public Works Director Chalker said they worked with NCDOT on a few things in the month of July. There were a couple of storm drain pipes in their right-of-way they could not get the dirt out of so the Public Works Department sent the sewage jet over to blast that out for them. Also, there was some flooding in the Town of Rich Square. When Public Works received our storm drain camera, part of the grant from the Rural Center was that we make that camera available for regional usage when other cities or towns may need it. We sent it over there one morning and helped them look at a few pipes to see if they were clear or not. That is something different than what we normally do and we are proud to do that and help our neighbors.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked if the City was still mapping our infrastructure. Public Works Director Chalker replied yes but they are not mapping the entire infrastructure with the camera. The camera is available if they get somewhere and if the people mapping get lost, our camera has a feature on it where they can run the camera underground and use a locator above ground to see where it is at. He stated it was quite surprising to find out where some of the pipes go, especially downtown in the 200 block. Some of the pipes meander under buildings; they have been there forever. When they started this mapping project, they did not always know when went into a catch basin where it was going to come out in the river. This is important to know in case there was a spill or something like that as well as just knowing what shape the pipes are in. He said the mapping project continues. Now the first part is going to be called Phase I because he does not think the contractor had any idea how big of a job they were facing. So now they have started in Phase II.

Fire

Fire Chief Patrick reported during the month of July, the department responded to 173 calls with an average response time of 5 minutes. Firemen were engaged in 610 man-hours of training during the month. Part of that training consisted of some of the guys to attend a Fire Officer I Class in Wilson. They had 4 firemen to attend a Child Safety Seat Class which was hosted at Davie Fire Department. After completing that class, the department has 9 certified child seat inspectors. The Prevention department completed 43 fire inspections and 7 pre-plans. He called attention to the number of pre-fire surveys completed during the month of July which totaled 229. The number significantly increased due to the inspection they have coming up in September. The guys were out getting those done and one thing that helped was the department had two guys on light duty in July that could not respond to fire calls but could do clerical type work.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked what the pre-fire survey consisted of. Chief Patrick explained they basically go into a business and obtain contact information for after hours and measure the building or get drawings of them so if they have to go to that business in the middle of the night they will have phone numbers. This information

is put in a database. They have an active 911 system so when they get dispatched it comes to their cell phones and tablets on the trucks. This allows the firefighters to access that information right there on scene from the truck. That includes contact information, any hazards materials that could be stored in the building and have a drawing of that building. In a fire, you cannot see across the room. Being able to pull that drawing up gives the firefighters a visual before they go into that environment. He said this is one the things the Fire Department will be graded on. They have fallen off the past couple of years so they are trying to pick that back up and get ready for the inspection. The department will begin in the near future doing these surveys monthly. Each company officer will be assigned so many a month to complete and update every year.

Chief Patrick announced the inspection is coming up September 17, 2019. The NC Rating Response also called ISO will be grading the Fire Department of all their apparatus, training hours, water supply (no control, RR Sanitary District) and also on dispatch systems. They will see how quick dispatchers turn over calls. We will be graded on how many trucks we have and how much equipment is carried on the trucks. They have a diagram or list of certain items that have to be carried on each apparatus. They will be graded on pre-fire surveys and extra-curricular things they do which he calls the fire safety outreach the department does. They will get points for the Fire Safety Fair and they are starting a program in the next couple of months to outreach to older adults and senior citizens. The homeowner's insurance rating will be determined by this inspection. He reported right now, they are a 4 out of 9. The higher the number, the higher the homeowners insurance will be. The lower the number, the cheaper it will be. He hopes to maintain the 4 rating this year. It is a personal goal as Fire Chief in the next 5 years is to drop that number to below a 4. A 4 will help lower rates for commercial and industries.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if a 4 was about the best for a household. Chief Patrick replied a 5 is usually the breaking point for residential.

Chief Patrick reported the department (all shifts) took a tour of the New Dixie Oil storage facility on Marshall Street in July. They did a pre-fire survey of the entire complex. This lead up to a table top drill for each one of the department's company officers. The drill was held a couple of weeks ago and all the guys did a great job. Hazmat was not something they train on a lot because they do not run across that situation very often. He stated they probably need to train on it more for that reason. He said the department is trying to get all the hazardous facilities pre-fired and get the plans in place to help prepare them in case something were to happen.

He said the department responded to a house fire on Allen Avenue on July 21st and

as Public Works Director said July was one of the hottest months. He believe that day was one of the hottest with a heat index of 113 degrees. He reported the fire spread quickly and the 26 firefighters that responded did an excellent job. The Police, Public Works, EMS and Davie Fire Department assisted. They rotated personnel and kept fluids in them so nobody was treated for any heat related illnesses.

Chief Patrick thanked all who came out to the Fire Safety Fair which was held last Friday, August 16, 2019. It was very successful. They had 300+ people to attend which was the biggest one they have had so far which this year was their 5th annual event. They received a lot of good feedback from those who attended. The kids had a blast. Davie brought in their bounce house and Mr. Ellen from Enfield brought his trains that are painted like fire trucks, EMS etc. The event was made possible through donations from sponsors; no City funds were used. They had food, the puppet show, and the Exodus Band performed for about an hour. Ms. Helen Reed had put together about 100 back to school bags to give out to the kids.

Main Street

Main Street Director Caudle presented the July report. She reported NC 48/Roanoke Avenue was resurfaced starting in the middle of July. Considering the large scope of that project, the asphalt resurfacing went really well. They have received good feedback from the stakeholders which are the business and property owners. The final part of that project with the contractor Rose Brothers was to put in temporary paint markings for vehicular traffic. NCDOT has hired a separate contractor to do the permanent thermoplastic markings and they are hoping to complete that in the fall. As they get information, they will disseminate it so everyone that is involved will know as soon as they do.

She said the Main Street non-profit board has been working in conjunction with the State Main Street and Rural Planning Center to develop a new market study that will show market data and research for 5 minute, 15 minute and 45 minute drive times within the City's historic district. They are in a final draft of the study now. The data includes retail leakage and surplus analysis that helps the City have a much better updated understanding on what the market potential is for the district. As of now, the State is planning to come to the October 15, 2019 Main Street Board meeting to present those findings. The Board voted and approved that today. The small businesses, new and existing, are the backbone of the community and the economic development we can do to attract more and keep the ones we have is pretty critical in our success as a city. We think these findings were a good step in the right direction to make sure we are recruiting business that can be here to stay. She encouraged Council to come to hear that in October.

Councilwoman Scarbrough asked where the Main Street board meetings were held. Main Street Director Caudle replied in the main conference room at City Hall. She said the meeting is always the same day as the second City Council meeting at 3:00 p.m. She will make sure she informs Council about the meeting.

Councilman Smith asked when they would be planting in the middle of the Avenue. She replied they have had some discussions about that and asked Public Works Director Chalker to answer that question.

Public Works Director Chalker stated we had a concern with one of the sections in the middle of the street. When the concrete cured it was so hot the concrete cured too fast so it got some stress cracks in it. We are waiting on the contractor and have been on the phone with them twice today to come back and repair that portion before we put the topsoil and plantings in it. We are ready to plant or to get NCDOT to plant something there, but we want to get that last minute detail straightened out.

Councilman Smith asked about the planters on each side of it. Public Works Director Chalker replied we had planned to do it all at the same time but he guessed they could go ahead try to get something over there. They did not have a date yet.

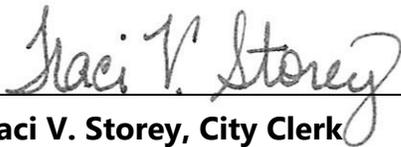
Councilman Smith asked if the contractor gave them an idea when they were going to come fix the concrete. Public Works Director Chalker said today the NCDOT inspector who lives here locally said he has been on the phone with them several times and apparently they are busy doing something else and pushing him off. He said he has been asked several questions about what they were going to plant there and he did not believe that had been decided yet but he can say it would not be anything very large and nothing that sticks out very far. He said there was a list of NCDOT approved plants that can go there.

Main Street Director Caudle said there was a page in the Streetscape Master Plan that actually identified the low, mid and high range vegetation specifically for that area. The NCDOT Roadside Engineer has that list and from that list they will tell the City what they can plant. Once they have that done, the City can move forward with the planting. The original plan was to put in a cross walk after the concrete was complete and landscape at the end. But we may change that based on the information we are getting now.

Councilman Smith said he heard them say low and high range vegetation and asked if there would be any trees higher than those holly trees. Main Street Director Caudle replied they would not do holly trees; it will not impact visibility at all.

Other Business/Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: September 3, 2019